Qatar Backs Sudan Over Fighting on Eastern Border

DOHA — Qatar's Emir on Tuesday expressed support for Sudan's government, faced with fierce fighting in the east of the country, after meeting here with Sudanese Vice President General Al-Zubair Mohammad Saleh.

"Qatar supports Khartoum and supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sudan," said Sheikh Hamad Ibn Khalifa al-Thani, according to the official Qatari news agency.

(Contd on Pg. 14)



TEHRAN TIMES

20 PAGES; PRICE 200 RIALS

VOL. XVIII; No. 243; THURSDAY JANUARY 23, 1997; BAHMAN 4, 1375; RAMAZAN 13, 1417

Duma Rejects Draft Resolution on Impeaching Yeltsin

MOSCOW — The Lower House of the Russian Parliament, the State Duma, Wednesday rejected a draft resolution on impeachment of President Boris Yeltsin, but agreed to use it as a basis for further debate.

Deputies voted 102 to 87 against adopting the entire text of the draft resolution.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Lahore Blast Not to Affect Pak-Iran Ties



MERAJ

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Meraj Khalid has said that friendly ties with Iran would not be affected after recent sectarian clashes in Lahore. He also said that Pakistan would continue to strive for unity of the Muslim ummah.

Pakistan's Punjab Province capital Lahore is witnessing severe violence since the advent of the New Year. A central leader of the Tehreek-i-Jafria Pakistan (TJP), Syed Zulfiqar Hussain Naqvi together with his son, driver, guard and a friend were killed by unknown assailants on first day of the New Year (January 1) in Lahore.

A powerful bomb fitted in a motorcycle was exploded in sessions court Lahore on January 18, killing at least 26 persons including Ziaur Rahman Farooqi, chief of a sectarian group Sipah-i-Sahab Pakistan (SSP).

The leaders of the SSP, as a first reaction, accused its rival sect Shia and Iran masterminding the explosion and on the next day the SSP workers burnt to ashes the Allama Iqbal Library of the culture center of Iran in Lahore.

Both Iran and TJP leaders in Pakistan strictly denied the explosion charge and held the anti-Islam foreign agents and U.S. Stooges responsible for this incident.

Talking to newsmen at an after dinner in Lahore Tuesday the caretaker prime minister noted that the blame for Lahore sessions court tragedy can only be put on those agencies and forces which were working against Pakistan and Muslim ummah, reported daily The News Wednesday.

He said an All Parties Conference (APC) can be convened by the government or any other force to create harmony and unity among the people of the country, the daily added.

"The United States was involved in the anti-Islamic act" in Lahore, capital of Punjab Province, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Boroujerdi said in a statement in Tehran on Monday.

Meanwhile, the deputy for the Culture and Islamic Relations Organization, Hojjatoleslam Seyed Abd al-Hussein Navvab, said on Tuesday that evidence indicate

(Contd on Pg.14)

Canadian FM Arrives in Cuba, Meets Castro

HAVANA — Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy was received by President Fidel Castro with full honors Tuesday amid rumblings from Washington.

Axworthy is the first Canadian foreign minister to visit Cuba since 1959, the year of Castro's revolution. In 1976, then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau travelled to Havana.

The top Canadian diplomat was welcomed by a military colorguard at the Palace of the Revolution in the Cuban capital, then met with Castro, Vice President Carlos Lage and other Cuban dignitaries.

The visit comes amid tensions over a new U.S. law aimed at punishing firms around the world that do business in Cuba, a measure that toughens Washington's 35-year-old embargo on the communist-ruled island.

Axworthy, accompanied by Christine Stewart, secretary of state for Latin American and African affairs, was greeted at the airport here by his Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina.

In response to a question, the top Canadian diplomat said Canada would maintain "an independent foreign policy" despite pressure from Washington to isolate Havana.

Robaina meanwhile said the visit comes at an "important moment" for Cuba and that the officials would hold "mutually beneficial" discussions.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns offered some blunt criticism of the visit.

Canada is Cuba's biggest trading partner and one of the few countries in the Americas never to have broken relations with the Castro regime.

Ottawa is a strident opponent of the U.S. Helms-Burton Law, which aims to punish non-U.S. companies that do business in Cuba.

The Helms-Burton Law specifically targets non-U.S. firms

(Contd on Pg.14)

Speaker Warns Against Negative Impacts of Mykonos Case

TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri Wednesday warned against the negative impacts of the baseless statements of the German Federal prosecutor and of politicizing the Mykonos case on the Iranian public opinion.

Nateq Nouri made the remarks in a meeting with the representative of the German Federal Assembly Jurgen Molemman who arrived here Monday.

The Majlis speaker stressed that the Mykonos court should not be allowed to lose its independence under the political influence of enemies and those opposing Tehran-Bonn ties.

Grounds should be paved to enable the court to issue its verdict freely and independently so that the truth would be clarified and misunderstandings removed, he added.

The Majlis speaker expressed hope that bilateral ties would proceed its smooth and positive trend through countering the efforts of elements intending to mar Tehran-Bonn relations.

Stressing promotion of Tehran-Bonn relations, Molemman admitted that those opposing ties between the two countries should not be given the chance to fulfill their intentions.



NOURI

He stressed that expansion of Germany's ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, a powerful country in the Middle East, will have positive impacts on both Europe and the region itself. *(IRNA)*

Serbian Opposition Wants to Intensify Movement

BELGRADE — The Serbian opposition wants to crank up its protest movement against President Slobodan Milosevic by packing more people into the streets of Belgrade and other cities, one of its leaders said Wednesday.

"Our plan is to intensify the protests in the Serbian cities where they have already taken place and to have more of them in Belgrade," Zoran Djindjic, a leader of the together opposition coalition, told reporters.

The two months of protests were triggered by the government's annulment of opposition victories in local elections.

In addition to the big rally held every afternoon in Republic Square, the idea is to stage more rallies in far-flung quarters of Belgrade right when the government broadcasts the evening news, he said.

"People will gather in several places, and police will have trouble dealing with this," Djindjic said.

Such rallies on the outskirts of Belgrade sprang up a few days and appear to be gaining intensity.

Djindjic said opposition officials would fan out across the city to supervise them.

He also said he planned to travel to several Serbian cities in a bid to boost the opposition movement. *(AFP)*



BELGRADE, Serbia, Yugoslavia (January 21): Dozens of taxi drivers join with their cars the 48-hours non-stop stand-off between protesting students and riot police in central Belgrade. Since early December the opposition has mounted largely peaceful daily protests in the streets here in an effort to get the decision reversed, after the electoral commission controlled by the ruling Socialists annulled the results of the November 17 local elections. *(AFP PHOTO)*

Iran Invites Afghan Groups, UN, Pakistan to Peace Talks



BOROUJERDI

TEHRAN — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Alaeddin Boroujerdi said here on Wednesday Iran has invited all Afghan groups and the United Nations envoy for Afghanistan to hold peace talks in Tehran.

Speaking at an interview with IRNA, Boroujerdi said the forthcoming peace talks due to be held in Tehran would be a new step to help restore peace and tranquility in the war-torn Afghanistan.

Afghan sources in Tehran said that major Afghan groups including the Talebans have accepted the invitation and are now on their way to Tehran.

Boroujerdi said Pakistan has also been invited to send a delegation to the Afghan peace talks in Tehran.

He said Iran believes that active participation of Pakistan in the Afghan peace talks would be effective in bringing the fighting in Afghanistan to an end.

Asked about the criticism voiced by some segments of the Iranian press over inviting a Taleban delegation to Iran, Boroujerdi said Iran has invited the Talebans as a political group in Afghanistan.

He maintained that Iran's previous policy of encouraging all Afghan groups to sit at the negotiating table and refrain from war should be continued.

"The invitation extended to the Talebans shows that Tehran by considering the existing realities into account is willing to help restore peace in Afghanistan and put an end to bloodshed there," he said.

He said although the policy of encouraging the Talebans to quit their military policies has produced no results, such a policy should be abandoned.

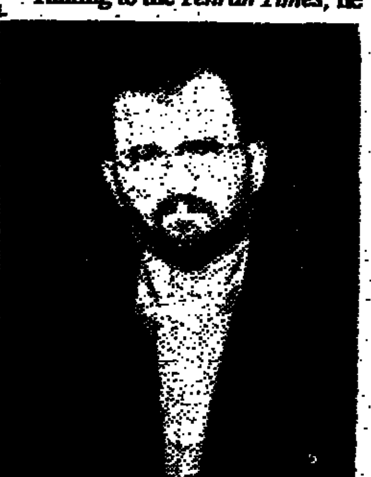
19 years of civil war in Afghanistan both during and after the former Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan has left one million people dead, two million maimed and eight million homeless. *(IRNA)*

Iranian Minorities' Rights Fully Respected

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A member of the Iranian Parliament representing the Armenians residing in southern Iran, Artawas Baghumian, called on the Armenians to increase their efforts to promote the development drive in the country.

Talking to the *Tehran Times*, he described the foundations of the Islamic Revolution as 'solid' and viewed the continuation of educational, cultural and religious activities as a major factor in protecting the achievements of the Islamic Revolution.



BAGHUMIAN

Baghumian has been representing the Armenian minority in the Majlis for the past four terms of the Parliament. Regarding the situation of the Armenian minority in Iran, he said, "In the light of the sacred Islamic system, the rights of the Armenians are respected and members of this minority group face no barriers to their activities in different areas and conduct their re-

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TEHRAN TIMES
TEHRAN TIMES NEWS SERVICE
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8809470
Telex: 213662 TTIM IR
224569 TTIP IR
Fax No. 8808214
ISSN 1017-9410
Address: No. 32, Koucheh Bimeh
Nejatollahi Ave. [former Villa]
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed at Keyhan

In the Name of God

Surely the vilest of animals, in Allah's sight, are the deaf, the dumb, who do not understand.

(HOLY QORAN) (8:22)

OPINION

Impartiality, Prerequisite to Norbert Holl's Success in His Mission

Although the Afghan crisis has practically turned into a human catastrophe, the UN does not seem to be serious in seeking a peaceful settlement to the problem.

When Kabul was controlled by Burhanuddin Rabbani's government, the UN office was in hibernation in that country. But since the fall of Kabul to the Taleban, the UN office in Kabul has become very active. Moreover, the UN Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Norbert Holl, has practically established his office in Islamabad, the seat of power of the patron-in-chief of the Taleban.

According to reliable sources Holl's parleys with the representatives of Afghan groups is only limited to those of the Taleban.

The above facts indicate that unfortunately the representative of the world body is going to lose his impartiality in Afghan affairs, for he is mainly interested in materializing the U.S. Afghan policy.

It is clear that the U.S. and Saudi Arabia have joined efforts to bring the Taleban to power in Afghanistan as a counterbalance to Iran in the region. Pakistan has its own interests in supporting the Taleban which tactically overlap those of the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

The Taleban have shown that they are anachronistic fanatics. Despite their clear violation of human rights, the Taleban have received moral and material supports of the U.S., Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The support of the UN is going to be a new phenomenon.

It is believed that the UN is the last bastion of justice when there is an international crisis. Regrettably the UN too is losing its credibility as an impartial mediator in the Afghan crisis.

In line with the U.S. policies, the UN envoy is going to become the representative of the Taleban.

Iran is going to host an all Afghan groups meeting in Tehran next week. The representatives of all Afghan factions, including the Taleban, will participate in the meeting. Iran has also invited Norbert Holl to participate in the meeting.

According to informed sources Holl has not thus far responded to Iran's invitation. The world community expects the UN to play an active role in the upcoming Tehran talks.

Indeed it is one of the main duties of the UN to support and promote peace throughout the world. Hence any initiative for peace must be welcomed and supported by the UN. Tehran talks will be a significant step towards restoring peace in the war-ravaged Afghanistan. Holl has already played an active role in the UN-sponsored peace talks in Islamabad. He is therefore expected to perform his duty through active participation in Tehran talks.

Any hesitation in this regard will deal a blow to the UN as an international institute, advocating and promoting peace. Holl's siding with the U.S. or any Afghan faction will undermine the legitimacy of his mission and will definitely contribute to the failure of any effort to restore peace to Afghanistan.

The main victims of protraction of civil war are the innocent Afghans. If UN fails to perform an impartial role in Afghanistan it must share the blame for further miseries inflicted on the Afghans.

Taleban Send Delegation to Iran for Afghan Meet

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Afghanistan's Taleban militia has sent a delegation to Iran for peace talks which aims at settling conflicts in the war-torn country. All Afghan groups including the UN representative are invited to the talks.

Mullah Haqqani, a Taleban spokesman in the southern city of Kandahar, said the delegation, led by acting Foreign Minister Mullah Mohammed Ghous, was in Herat en route for Tehran.

The mission follows an Iranian offer to host peace talks among warring Afghan factions, including the Taleban, Reuters reported.

Boroujerdi said on Sunday that any peace plan evolved without the participation of all Afghan factions was doomed to fail.

UN Special Envoy to Afghanistan Norbert Holl brought representatives of the Taleban and their foes together for three days of talks that ended inconclusively in Islamabad last week.

The next day the Taleban launched an assault north of Kabul, capturing Bagram military airbase and the town of Charikar.

President: Supporting Cause of Labor Pride of Islamic Government

Tehran Times Service



TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said that supporting the cause of workers, who are the most vulnerable strata in the country, is a pride of the Islamic government.

He made the remark in an address to the officials of the Social Security Organization (SSO) here on Wednesday. The president expressed gratitude to the officials for their services to improve the situation of workers and achieve their welfare, saying that providing one third of the population with social security services is a laudable and important task.

Referring to the pivotal role of the Social Security Organization in the development of the country during the construction period, the president emphasized that promoting the interests of the insurance policy holders through making investments in development projects is an appropriate course of action adopted by the Social Security Organization.

On the performance of the SSO, President Rafsanjani noted that the organization has a share in the production of some 30 percent of medicine, 40 percent of home appliances and 10 percent of cement in the country.

The president also hailed the organization for its active participation in constructing hospitals, health centers and residential units in several underprivileged parts of the country. He also described labor as the country's most valuable resource, saying that the peaceful atmosphere which dominates factories and industrial centers in Iran as well as the close cooperation between workers and government officials are the outcome of the workers' devotion to the Islamic Revolution and government.

"The Islamic government holds the view that ignoring the rights of workers is a great injustice," he further said. At the meeting, the president bestowed a plaque of honor and management on the Managing Director of the Social Security Organization, Mehdi Karbasian.

Meanwhile, the Health Minister Ali Reza Marandi briefed the president on the expansion of medical services network in the country, stressing that exercising social justice is the prime objective of the Islamic government and that the Social Security Organization, through offering more insurance services, has paved the way for materialization of this goal.

Germany for Maintaining of Tehran-Bonn Friendly Ties

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The German authorities and the majority of the Parliament are willing to maintain cordial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, said the Representative of the German Parliament Jurgen Molemman.

Speaking at a meeting with the Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Tuesday, Molemman called for promotion of Tehran-Bonn cooperation in all political, economic and trade fields, IRNA reported.

Stressing that Tehran and Bonn enjoy traditional relations and referring to the existence of certain problems, he said the two countries should make efforts to pass the present stage with regards to the bright prospects for future bilateral cooperation.

Velayati said that exchange of messages between the heads of governments of the two countries indicates the resolution of the top officials of the two states to preserving and consolidating bilateral ties.

The foreign minister added there are numerous grounds for bilateral and regional cooperation between the two countries in Central Asia and Caucasia on the basis of reciprocal respect and interests.

The German parliamentarian arrived here Monday.

Rabbani Welcomes Afghan Peace Talks in Tehran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Afghan Charge d'Affaires to Khazakhstan, Najibullah Zia Rahman, said in Almaty Wednesday that President Burhanuddin Rabbani has welcomed the forthcoming meeting of of Afghan groups due



RABBANI

to be held in Tehran next Saturday.

Quoting President Rabbani, the envoy expressed hope that Iran's new attempt would lead to restoration of peace and tranquility in Afghanistan.

He further told IRNA in Almaty Wednesday that President Rabbani will surely send a delegation to the meeting.

Afghan groups including the Taleban are invited to the meet.

Several countries and international organizations will also attend the meeting as observers.

Syrian Minister Lauds Iran's Cultural Activities

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Syrian Minister of Awqaf (Islamic endowment) Muhammad Ziyade in Damascus Tuesday lauded the Islamic Republic's cultural and religious activities in his country.

The minister made the remark in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Mohammad Hassan Akhtari, an IRNA report said.

The two sides also exchanged views on competitions for memorization and recitation of the Holy Qoran, which are held by Iran's Culture House in Damascus every year.

Uzbekistan Praises Iran's Efforts to Settle Regional Crises

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Uzbek Ambassador to Tehran Abdusamad Haidarov, in his meeting with the Vice Chairman of the Majlis Foreign Policy Committee Mohammad Javad Larijani here on Wednesday, praised the peace efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and added that his country is concerned about the crises in Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

Regarding the recent developments in Afghanistan, the Iranian parliamentarian said that the Taleban militia is a political group, but, "We condemn making use of military means to achieve political power by any group because it will increase tension and justify the presence of outsiders in the region.

Larijani reiterated that the stand taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Afghan issue is based on the nonintervention of foreign powers and cessation of hostilities. Iran has always called on all Afghan groups to form a coalition government comprising all Afghan factions, he added.

The Iranain official also noted, "Since Iran and Pakistan share the



LARIJANI

longest borders with Afghanistan and due to the three countries' historical commonalties, Iran and Pakistan should coordinate their efforts to help settle the conflict in war-torn Afghanistan." Larijani stressed that the U.S. and the Zionist regime are fanning the flames of sectarianism in Pakistan aiming to damage friendly relations among the regional countries.

In the meeting, the two sides also exchanged views on bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest.

World Body Condemns Arson Attack on Cultural Center in Lahore

Tehran Times Service

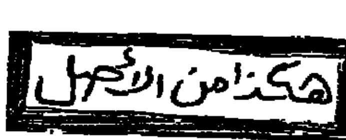
TEHRAN — The World Forum for Proximity among Islamic Schools of Thought, in a statement issued here yesterday, strongly condemned the arson attack on Iqbal Lahori Library affiliated to the Cultural Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Lahore.

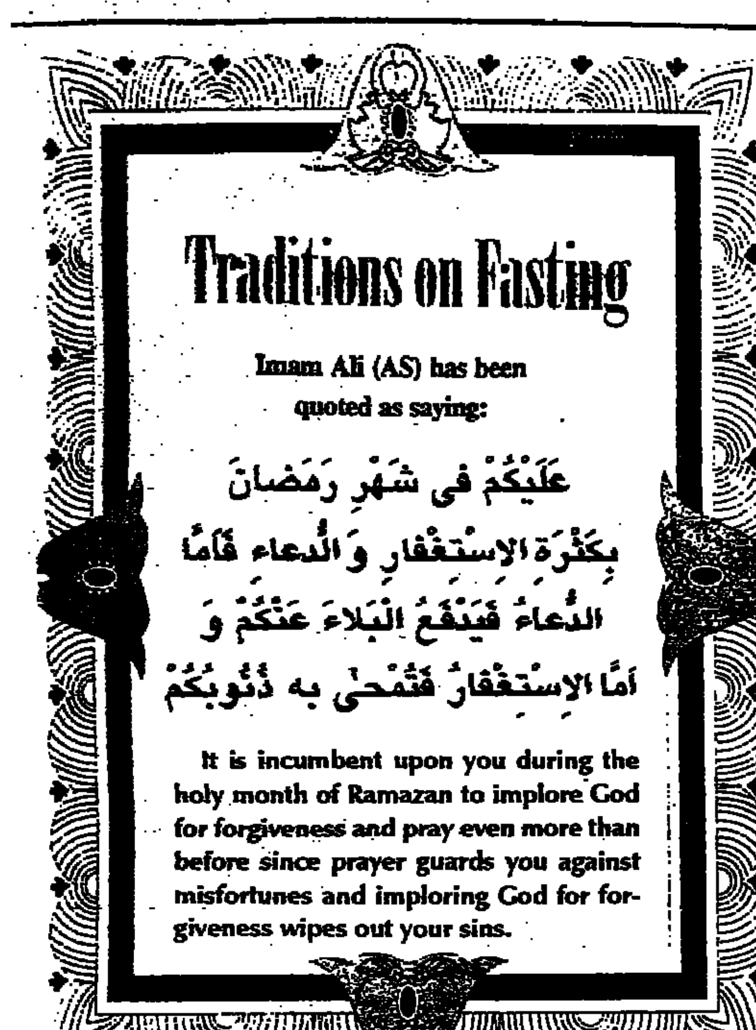
The statement expressed regret over the incident, stressing that, by committing such crimes, the global arrogance tries to harm the brotherly relations among Muslims. The enemies aim to weaken solidarity and unity between the Shias and Sunnis across the world, it added.

It went on to say that setting fire to the library has deeply affected all religious and political circles in Iran and Pakistan. The statement also expressed hope that the authorities of the two countries would exercise vigilance and not let the enemies of Islam achieve their mischievous goals.

Some extremist members of the Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) on Sunday stormed Allamah Lahori Cultural Center, burning some 12,000 books including copies of the Holy Qoran and destroying the center's library by fire.







Majlis Approves Necessary Credit for Countering U.S. Plots

Tehran Times Service

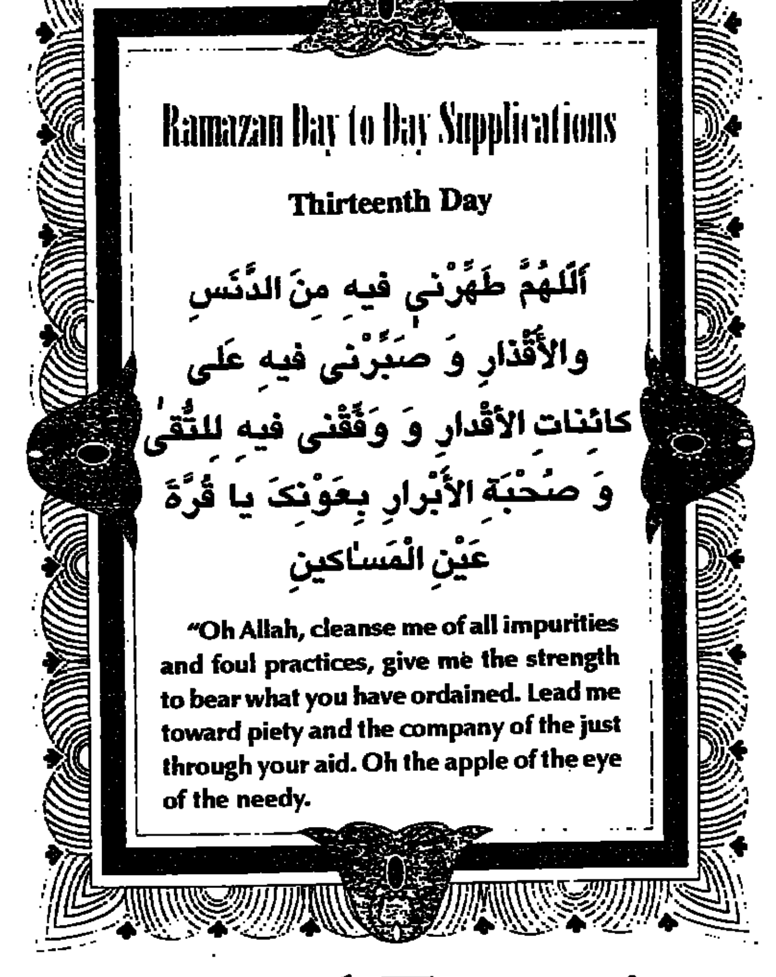
TEHRAN — Majlis yesterday approved allocation of necessary credit for countering the U.S. plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) the clauses to the 1376 budget bill was discussed,and a number of the proposals were passed.

Based on clause 55, Majlis approved allocation of fund for discovering and thwarting the U.S. Administration's plots and interventions in the internal affairs of Iran.

The credit No. 503301 was further allocated for tabling Iran's claims against the U.S. in international tribunals and for enlightening the public opinion of the world on the U.S. cultural invasion against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The fund will be distributed among the concerned executive organizations with the approval of the president.



Development, Cultural Projects to Be Launched During 10-Day Dawn

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Mayor of Tehran's District 6, Abdolkarim Babareza, here on Wednesday announced that several development and cultural projects would be



inaugurated in this district during the 10-Day Dawn anniversary celebration which starts on January 31.

Speaking at a press conference, Babareza mentioned the Makhzan-ul-Asrar Library, Nezami Ganjavi Park, a permanent site for prayer, Iranshahr Park and several administrative and commercial projects as among those to be launched on the occasion of the auspicious period marking the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Elaborating on the cultural activities of the municipality, the mayor underlined that culture is a pillar of society and cultural development one of the prime objectives of the country.

He further reiterated that it is the duty of the media to familiarize the people with the different aspects of cultural life in this country and to encourage them to observe the clean, Islamic-Iranian culture.

Referring to the guidelines set by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, calling on government officials concerned to change the profile of the city into one that will emphasize Islamic and Iranian genuine architecture, Babareza expressed his municipality's readiness to implement any practical suggestion in this regard.

In conclusion, he called on all Iranian Muslim artists and architects to cooperate with the municipality in the implementation of the Leader's injunction.

Reyshahri's Viewpoints on Elections & ADVIR's Objectives

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri, said here Wednesday that being a clergyman will not make a cleric an eligible figure to run for the presidential elections.

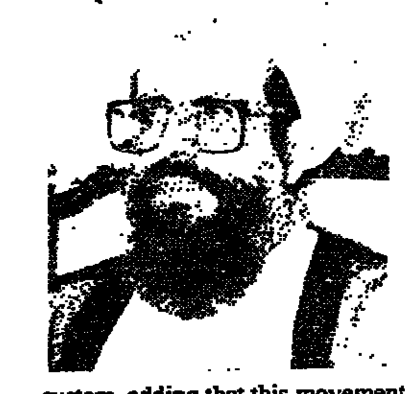
In an exclusive interview with the Persian-language daily Jumhoori-e-Eslami, Reyshahri, who is the Secretary General of the Association for Defending the Values of the Islamic Revolution (ADVIR), added such statements that the future president must be a clergyman, is a form of sectarianism.

Hojjatoleslam Reyshahri further stressed that committed clerics are against sectarianism.

He warned the presidential hopefuls against linking themselves to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution "lest the prestige of "Velayat" (Guardianship of Supreme Muslim Jurisprudent) suffers any damage."

"Velayat is the backbone of the Islamic Revolution and confining it to a group of individuals is in fact a blow to the Velayat itself," Reyshahri stressed.

He said that the tenure of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is marked by construction efforts and blessed days for the Islamic



system, adding that this movement should continue strongly as before.

On the aims behind the establishment of the Society for Defending the Values of the Islamic Revolution, Hojjatoleslam Reyshahri said the society aims at defending the values for which the revolution was launched.

He added that the society is a "response to a serious need and a political vacuum in our Islamic community."

Armed Forces in Favorable Conditions

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Commander of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army, Brigadier General Ahmad Dadbin, said at present the armed forces are in favorable conditions and prepared for any operation for defending retaliatory attacks posing a threat to territorial integrity of the country.

Talking to the Majlis parliamentarian reporter on Wednesday, Dadbin said the visit to Pakistan of American officials aim at launching a psychological war against Islamic Iran.

"As armed forces, we continue preserving our combat readiness", he stressed.

The commander of the ground forces pointed out that Iran's submarines are no threat to any country, stressing that Islamic Republic of Iran will use them as weapons to defend its territory

Over 150 kg of Narcotics Confiscated in Mazandaran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Politico-Ideological Department of Mazandaran Law Enforcement Forces reported here Wednesday that some 151 kgs of narcotic drugs have been confiscated during the past three weeks from drug traffickers.

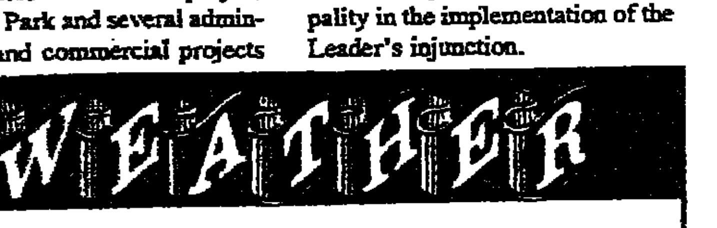
According to IRNA, the drugs were seized from passing cars in the cities of Minoodasht, Behshahr, Babol, Gonbad, Noor and Ramsar.

In this connection several traffickers were arrested and five vehicles confiscated by the local Law Enforcement Forces, the report added.

Data Bank on Children, Youth Books to Be Set Up

TEHRAN — The Cultural Association of Publishers of Children and Youth Books announced here on Tuesday that a data bank on authors of such books will be set up soon.

The publishers, authors and critics of books for children and youth, in their gathering on Tuesday, exchanged views on ways to set up the data bank. IRNA



The Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 8°C, Min. temp. -2°C

Partly cloudy

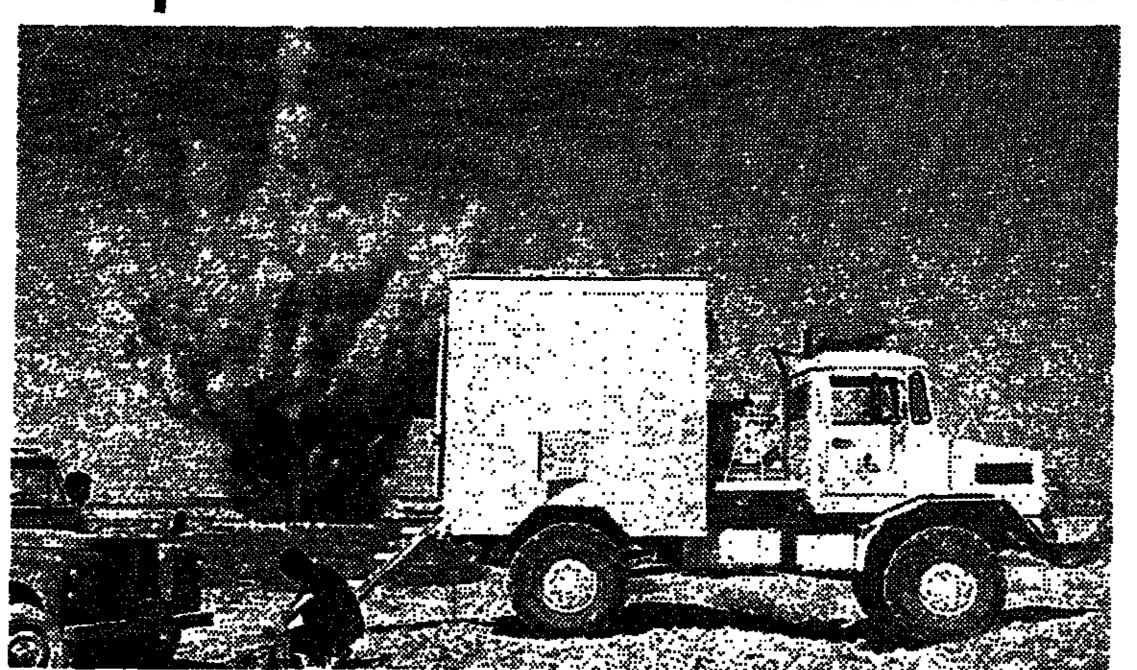
Warmest Point:
Sirri 21°C

Coldest Point:
Piranshahr -19°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	26	Vienna	--
Istanbul	-7	Moscow	--
Rome	--	Madrid	10
Athens	--	Abu Dhabi	19
London	-7	Karachi	20
Paris	10	New Delhi	18
Frankfurt	-3	Kuwait	17

Oil Exploration Launched in Central Desert



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Oil exploration operations have begun at Iran's Central Desert region and parts of nearby Ardestan city, Isfahan province, for a month, it was announced on Wednesday.

Mahmoud Afarin, head of an oil exploration team said that preleminary tests have been carried out on 350 locations in the region.

He added that seismographic tests have yet to be done to determine the geological status of the region.

Afarin said that the region is likely to hold oil reserves.

Khuzestan's 1376 Budget Increases by 18%

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The budget allocated for this southwestern province for the year 1376 (March 21, 1997-March 20, 1998) rose from Rls.325,000 million of the current year to Rls. 385,000 million.

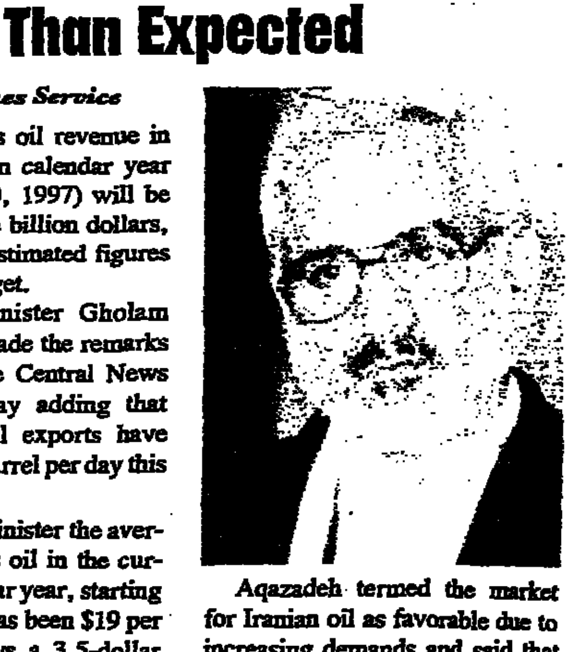
Head of the provincial plan and budget department Mohammad Qasem Hosseini further said Tuseday that priority has been given to the culture and arts, roads and transportation, physical education and development of villages in Khuzestan's budget for the next year.

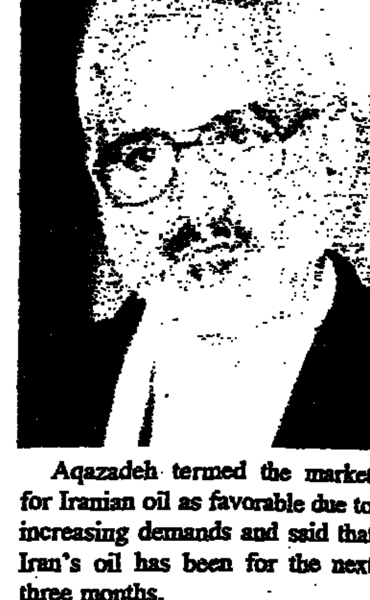
The development budget rose from Rls.113,000 million to Rls.161,000 million and that of reconstruction from Rls.190,000 million to Rls.200,000 million.

Some Rls.22,000 million has also been earmarked for deprived regions of the province, Hosseini added.

Iran's Oil Revenue $3bn More Than Expected

Tehran Times Service





TEHRAN - Iran's oil revenue in the current Iranian calendar year (ending March 20, 1997) will be increased by three billion dollars, compared to the estimated figures in this year's budget.

Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh made the remarks in his talks to the Central News Bureau Wednesday adding that Iran's average oil exports have been 2.6 million barrel per day this year.

According to minister the average price of Iran's oil in the current Iranian calendar year, starting March 21, 1996, has been $19 per barrel which shows a 3.5-dollar increase compared to the estimated prices.

Aqazadeh termed the market for Iranian oil as favorable due to increasing demands and said that Iran's oil has been for the next three months.

Iran to Promote Cooperation With Cuba, Hungary, Qatar

Tehran Time Service

TEHRAN - Construction Jihad Minister, Gholam-Reza Forouzesh, in separate meetings here Tuesday with the ambassadors of Cuba, Hungary and Qatar, discussed expansion of cooperation in the fields of food industry, husbandry, fisheries, forestry and pasture lands.

In his meeting with Forouzesh, Cuban Ambassador Enrique Trujillo Rapallo, said, matters related to the fishing industry will top the agenda of the Iran-Cuba Joint Economic Commission to be held in Havana, IRNA reported.

In another meeting, the construction Jihad minister told Qatari Ambassador Ali Abdel-Aziz al-Kawari that his ministry was all set to engage in joint investment with Qatar in the area of fisheries.

In his meeting with Forouzesh, the Hungarian ambassador told the construction Jihad minister that both Iran and his country have favorable grounds for promotion of close cooperation in the areas of animal husbandry, fisheries, food industry, forestry and pasture lands.

The Hungarian ambassador concluded that such cooperation could be promoted through exchange of experts and the transfer of experiences and technology.

Subsidies Up 2.5% in Japan's 1997 Budget

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The total amount of state subsidies to local governments under the Japan's proposed budget for fiscal 1997 is 19,202 billion yen, up 2.5 percent from fiscal 1996 ending March 31, a report issued by the Japan's Ministry of Finance (MOF) said Wednesday, as quoted by an IRNA-Kyodo-OANA dispatch.

The growth was the lowest since fiscal 1990 when it posted a 2.0 percent increase, the report said.

The fiscal 1997 value accounted for 43.8 percent of planned general expenditures, up 0.4 percentage point from fiscal 1996, it said. General expenditures, the core of the proposed 77.39 trillion yen budget, totaled 43,806.7 billion yen.

The number of projects for which subsidies will be awarded fell by just 23 from the previous year to 2,200, it said.

The ministry attributed the subsidies' rise in value for fiscal 1997 to an increasing need for welfare and health care assistance, which accounts for more than 40 percent of the overall subsidies. Health and welfare-related subsidies rose 3.6 percent from fiscal 1996, it said.

Subsidies for education and science, public works projects and social security totaled 16,487.7 billion yen, accounting for 85.9 percent of the overall subsidies, according to the report.

Subsidies are to be increased under the proposed budget in such areas as national health insurance, home welfare services and compulsory education, it said.

Iran, Pakistan Ink MOU

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – A memorandom of Understanding was signed between Iranian Deputy Road and Transport Minister, Esmaeel Qaem Maqami, and Pakistani Deputy Economy and Financial Affairs Minister, Javid Barki, in Islamabad Wednesday.

According to the MOU, Pakistan will buy Iran-made bulldozers and in returen Iran is to buy sugar cane processing factory from Pakistan.

Iran and Pakistan also signed an economic contract last year according to which Pakistan would buy 1000 bulldozers from Iran some 486 of which will be delivered to Iran in the near future.

The Pakistan official expressed readiness to help Iran construct suger cane processing factory.

According to the document, Pakistan is required to pay the delayed debts of the Iranian companies within one month.

Speaking at a press conference, the Iranain deputy minister of road and transport said that the memorendum would pave the way for implementation of the last year's cotract for selling bulldozer to Pakistan.

Pakistan is indebted more than four billion rials to Iranian contractors, Qaem Maqami said, adding that during the talks he had with the Pakistani official, he stressed that Islamabad would undertake its obligations.

An Iranian ranking economic delegation arrived in Pakistan on Tuesday to review the practical ways for implementation of the agreements reached during the meeting of Iran-Pakistan joint economic commission held in Islamabad last year.

Australia Trying to Facilitate Investments

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Australian Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer said in Sydney Tuesday his government will keep on streamlining its foreign investment procedures in order to facilitate the flow of Indonesian and Indian investments into the country.

Australia will strive to reduce tariffs on a number of commodities such as coal, wool and wheat, he said at a press conference organized by the foreign correspondents' association, as quoted by and IRNA-Antara dispatch.

Australia would in 1997 give priority to the development of its industrial and trade sectors through bilateral and multilateral cooperation schemes, he said.

Citing examples of Canberra's efforts in the direction, Fischer said the Australian government was continuing its efforts to renew its trade agreement with Malaysia and to sign an agreement on such matters as avoidance of double taxation with Chile, an agreement on trade cooperation with Argentina and another one on flight services with Indonesia.

This year, Fischer said, Australia would establish a market development task force in charge of making a good coordination for the materialization of a realistic target, giving priority to bilateral market access and promoting trade.

About regional economic cooperation, Fischer referred to the success achieved in the 1994 APEC meeting in Bogor, Indonesia, a clause of the 1994 meeting's statement pertained to the materialization of Individual Action Plans (IAPS) in the face of world trade liberalization.

According to him, the Bogor meeting was a good preliminary step for APEC members to face trade liberalization.

Some new initiatives recorded after the Bogor meeting was that China had agreed to decrease its import tariffs by 15 percent in the year 2000, followed by Chile, Hong Kong and Singapore with zero percent by 2010, he said.

Non-oil-gas Resources Exploited For People's Benefit

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The exploitation of Indonesia's non-oil-gas natural resources, such as gold, silver and copper, should be for the benefit of the people.

Speaking at a dialog on the social and economic aspects of managing natural resources here, Rizal Ramli of the private research group Ekonit, said that despite the country's dependence on foreign investments in mining, it does not mean that the people's interests will be left behind, an IRNA-Antara dispatch reported.

So far, all mining activities in the country are controlled by certain groups at the people's expense, he said.

To avoid such practices, Ramli proposed two strategic steps: First, drafting a bill on the management of non-oil-gas natural resources and second, reviewing existing working contracts which have become the legal basis for exploiting the country's non-oil-gas natural resources.

Rate Rise Unlikely After Retail Sales Fall

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Economists in London said on Wednesday that an imminent rise in British interest rates seemed unlikely in view of an unexpected fall of retail sales in December.

Retail sales fell by 0.8 percent from the figure for November, and rose by 2.9 percent compared with December 1995, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said, an AFP dispatch reported.

Economist at ABN Amro Hoare Govett, Kevin Darlington, said that the data "diminishes further the chances of a rate rise in February."

He said that the figures were much lower than market forecasts and added that the data "has taken everyone by surprise."

Analysts in London had predicted that high street spending would rise in December from the previous month.

The median forecast had been for a 0.3-percent increase in High Street spending compared with November and for sales to rise by 3.8 percent on a 12-month comparison.

Darlington said that the figures showed that there was no boom in consumer spending. "The consumer of the 1990s is more cautious, which for overall balance in the economy is quite good," he said.

However, the Conservative government has pinned its hopes for re-election at polls which must be held here within four months on its handling of the economy and voter perceptions of the so-called "feelgood factor". This is closely associated with a pick-up in consumption.

At his last monthly monetary policy meeting at the Bank of England on January 15, Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke decided to leave interest rates unchanged at six percent.

However, Governor of the Bank of England Eddie George is known to favor a tightening of monetary policy to dampen inflationary pressures in the British economy.

On Monday, George made his latest call for higher rates. The cost of borrowing would have to rise if the government was to meet its inflation target of 2.5 percent, he said.

Unlike in other European countries, the Bank of England merely offers advice to the treasury, which is free to set monetary policy as it sees fit.

Economists say that Clarke would be unwilling to raise base rates so close to an election, for fear of marginalising millions of home owners whose loan repayments are directly tied to the level of base rates.

Private Companies Finance Housing Project in St. Petersburg

Tehran Times Service

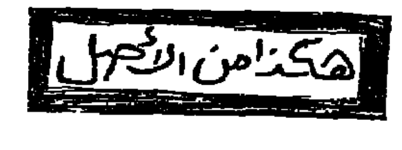
TEHRAN - The experiment for the rebuilding of outdated five-storeyed houses and the provision of dwellings for their residents, which is being conducted in St. Petersburg, is fully financed by private companies. The Lek Estate and St. Petersburg real estate companies, which are well known in the city, plan to allocate for that purpose 97 billion roubles this year.

20 percent of the money will be spent on providing dwellings for residents of the old buildings. Later part of the newly built flats will be sold at commercial prices. The cost of one square meter of floorspace will be about 500 dollars, which will make up for the expenditures on the resettlement program, authors of the project told Tass.

According to specialists, the first residential area, where the project is to be put into effect, is the dachnoye district, where dozens of precast five-storeyed houses were built some 30 to 35 years ago. The experiment envisages the demolition of the old houses along with the simultaneous construction of new, so-called pilot buildings for residents of the demolished houses. Elegant modern buildings are being created nearby, where dozens of families will move this year.

The authors of the project chose a three-stage cycle: the construction of pilot houses — resettlement — rebuilding. In their opinion, this will make it possible to considerably reduce the time for the implementation of the program of providing new housing for residents of the old five-storeyed houses.





Jordan Scores 51 to Lift Bulls Past Knicks

CHICAGO, Illinois — Michael Jordan scored 51 points, the most by any player in a National Basketball Association game this season, and the Chicago Bulls needed every one to edge New York 88-87 here Tuesday.

Jordan sank two pressure-packed jump shots in the final 67 seconds to give the Bulls (35-5) their 10th victo in 11 games.

Chicago rebou ed from a 16-point loss Sunday at Houston to extend their domination of the Knicks.

"This was like a playoff game," Jordan said. "It was a playoff atmosphere and we expected it. We were probably lucky to win."

NBA scoring leader Jordan made 18-of-30 shots from the field and beat the season-high mark of) he produced November 6 ainst Miami. Jordan has the four ghest-scoring efforts of the NBA eason.

"Jordan had a great night," Knicks Coach Jeff van Gundy said.

"You have to go at him as hard as he goes at you. I'm proud of my guys. They went as hard as you could at him."

But they failed. Jordan dominated even with NBA rebound leader Dennis Rodman serving a suspension for kicking a photographer and guard Ron Harper out with an injury.

"We were able to hold them off down the stretch, minus our big rebounder," Jordan said. "Our guys did a heck of a job. We knew we had to get in there defensively, stand our ground and rebound the ball."

New York has lost seven of its last nine against Chicago and the Knicks have never beaten a Jordan-led Bulls team in five playoff attempts. Jordan has reached the 50-point mark four times against the Knicks, the pinnacle being a 55-point effort five games into his 1995 return from retirement.

Patrick Ewing had 19 points and 14 rebounds for the Knicks, who lost for just the third time in nine games. New York played without backup guard John Starks, who has had success defending Jordan.

"I thought our guys played a very good game," Ewing said. "You know Michael is going to get his no matter what. We just didn't do a good enough job on the boards. Our guys played a great game. But Michael hit the big shots."

A 17-2 New York run pulled the Knicks from 17 points down within 80-78 with 6:17 to play. Jordan scored the final eight bull points before two final three-point shots cloed the final margin.

Scottie Pippen had 15 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for the Bulls, who shot 45 percent from the field but were called for just nine fouls.

"The Knicks are a very physical team and they came out to establish that early," Pippen said. "I don't mind when Michael scores like he did tonight. I'd let him score all the points if it meant we would win every night."

(AFP)



CHICAGO, Il, United States (January 21): New York Knicks center Patrick Ewing (C) holds back Chicago Bulls guard Michael Jordan (L) and Bulls Luc Longley (R) from grabbing a rebound as knicks forward Charles Oakley (background)looks on in the first quarter at the United Center in Chicago, llinois.

(AFP PHOTO)

SPORTS SUMMARY

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(AFP)

It's War Against Muster, Says Sampras After Five Set Win

MELBOURNE, Australia - Pete Sampras fended off a plucky challenge from Spaniard Albert Costa to set up an intriguing semi-final with Austrian warhorse Thomas Muster at the Australian open tennis here late Wednesday.

The world no.1 was taken to five sets before subduing the persistent 10th seeded Costa, 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 in two hours 52 minutes of riveting tennis to reach the semi-finals here for the fourth time in seven attempts.

Sampras was greatly impressed with the 21-year-old from Barcelona saying he had one of the best backhands he had ever played against.

(AFP)



MEBOURNE, Australia (January 22): Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia balances the racquet on his head after losing a serve to fifth seed Thomas Muster of Austria during the quarter-finals of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne. Third seed Ivanisevic lost in straight sets 4-6, 2-6, 3-6.

(AFP PHOTO)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

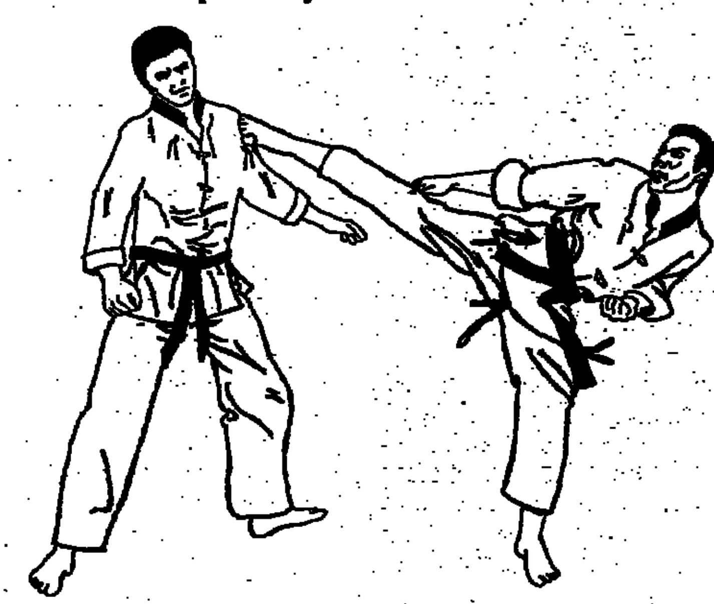
Skills of Kung Fu

(Part 23)

Warm-Up for Techniques of Legs



Since the legs are much stronger and can stretch more than the hands, the techniques of legs are the best sorts of attacks although there is a lot of danger involved in them and they can be highly hazardous for the rivals. Of course, your body needs more balance when you lift your leg. While you are practiging you should perform the techniques of legs as high as possible. But you should quickly act while challenging and you need not perform the techniques above your rival's waist. There's no need for yon to use punching bag and alike to strengthen your legs because the legs due to bearing the body's weight are naturally strong. So, you should try to concentrate power in your legs and do the techniques very fast.



Some Practices for Developing Techniques

Put your right leg on a chair, then put your hands on it to be kept straight. While your right foot is completely stretched, try to touch the knee with your head. Repeat it 15 times for each leg. Then squat, stretch your left leg completely straight and forward, hold your left foot — placed on heel and upward — and pull it backward and then bend in a way your chin touches your toes. Do the same with your right leg.

Note: Firstly, try to touch your knee with your head and gradually increase the gap. Squat once again, but this time grasp your foot with your right hand. Do it between 12 to 200 times.

Keeping Up the Leg Sideways

This movement is famous to the Chinese since the leg while kicking is kept at the same position as long as possible. Lift your leg slowly to an angle of 90 degrees, keep it at the same position and your toes upward. Now, return it to the first position slowly and repeat it with the other leg. Although it is difficult to perform this physical exercise for 30 times, but make every effort to do it.

Arafat Meets Mubarak, Arab League Chief

CAIRO — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat discussed the post-Al-Khalil phase of the Middle East peace process during an hour-long meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak here Wednesday, officials said.

Arafat, who arrived in Cairo from Rome where he attended a meeting of the Socialist International, first met privately with Mubarak. No statement was issued at the end of the talks.

Arafat and Mubarak's top advisors, Nabil Abu Rudeina and Osama al-Baz respectively, then joined the two leaders for 10 more minutes of discussions.

Arafat, accompanied by Baz, later left for the Cairo headquarters of the Arab League for a meeting with Secretary General Esmat Abdel Meguid.

The Palestinian minister for local administration, Saeb Erakat, was to brief the permanent delegates of the Arab League on Thursday on the Al-Khalil handover accord reached with Israel last week, league officials said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa said meanwhile that the Al-Khalil accord between Israel and the Palestinians was "an important step towards the creation of a Palestinian state."

"Peace in the Middle East will not be achieved without creation of a Palestinian state," Mussa said Tuesday. He pledged Egyptian support for the Palestinian side in reaching that objective.

Under the terms of the Al-Khalil accord, the Israeli Army withdrew from 80 percent of the West Bank town on Friday and handed the city's administration over to Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

The Israeli Army remains in control of 20 percent of Al-Khalil, which contains enclaves where 400 Jewish settlers live and the cave of the patriarchs — a site holy to both Muslims and Jews.

(AFP)

Levy: Syria Must Resume Talks Without Preconditions

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Foreign Minister David Levy reaffirmed Wednesday that Israel was ready to resume peace negotiations with Syria based on the "land for peace" principle which governed the 1991 Madrid peace conference.

"Syria must resume these peace negotiations with Israel, without any preconditions, on the basis of the principles which permitted the organization of the Madrid Conference," Levy said on Israel radio.

"We have agreed to, among these principles, UN Resolution 242, even if we interpret it differently (than the Arabs)," he said.

Resolution 242 calls on Israel to withdraw from Arab territories occupied during the 1967 six-day war, which include the Golan Heights seized from Syria which Damascus is demanding be returned as a precondition for peace.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ruled out a full return of the Golan Heights to Syria, but has said Damascus is free to bring the issue of territorial compromise to the negotiating table.

In another development the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported Wednesday that Levy had been in contact with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara via an unnamed European minister in a bid to relaunch peace negotiations frozen for nearly a year.

The report said Levy and Shara exchanged messages about possible formulas for resuming talks and that the contacts could lead to a meeting between the two men on the sidelines of a conference of Mediterranean and North African nations due to be held next April in Malta.

In his radio interview, Levy did not confirm the exchange of messages with his Syrian counterpart, but said he was ready to meet Shara "when and where he would like to talk about peace."

(AFP)

U.S. House Reprimands, Fines Gingrich

WASHINGTON — In a historic and humbling rebuke to its leader, the U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday to reprimand speaker Newt Gingrich and order him to pay $300,000 for violating house rules.

After a brief debate notable for its decorum, 195 Republicans voted in favor of punishing the speaker. Five members abstained.

Gingrich was re-elected speaker just two weeks ago in a close vote in which a few of his own party members deserted him. He is the third-highest elected official of the United States after the president and vice president.

This penalty is tough and unprecedented. It is also appropriate, Republican Nancy Johnson of Connecticut, chairman of the Ethics Committee which recommended the punishment, said in the debate. No one is above the rules of the House of Representatives, she said.

Several Republicans called too harsh the $300,000 payment Gingrich is required to make towards the cost of the committee investigation. Some suggested it set a precedent for assessing costs against members making frivolous ethics complaints.

The committee found that Gingrich brought discredit on the house by providing false information about a politically oriented college course he taught that was financed by tax-exempt charitable contributions, and by failing to seek legal advice to ensure he was in compliance with tax laws.

Johnson said the inquiry had proceeded against a backdrop of harsh political warfare.

She expressed hope the vote would end the crippling partisanship and animosity that has surrounded U.S.

(AFP)

Fighting Erupts in North as Jets Bomb Kabul Airport

KABUL — Heavy fighting broke between the Taleban militia and its rivals north of Kabul on Wednesday after opposition jets repeatedly bombed the capital's airport, residents and airport officials said.

The sky above the Afghan capital was lit with anti-aircraft fire from various hill tops inside the city. Big columns of smoke could be seen engulfing the airport area, witnesses said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

"Very heavy fighting has started between the rival factions outside Charikar," a town which lies 64 kilometers (40 miles) north of Kabul, a source said.

It was not immediately clear who launched the offensive or whether there had been any change in the frontlines in the area where the Taleban are facing off against forces of the country's anti-Taleban coalition.

The latest round of fighting erupted as jets belonging to the alliance dropped at least eight bombs on the capital's airport in three sorties late Tuesday.

Witnesses said the bombs landed on the airport's apron area and on an unused terminal at its eastern flank, leaving big craters which were being repaired by airport workers.

Airport officials told AFP that an engineer, identified only as Gul Jan, was wounded, but the runway remained undamaged. There were no civilian casualties, doctors at two major hospitals here said.

Charikar was captured by the Taleban last week following an offensive on forces loyal to ex-government forces commander Ahmad Shah Masood.

Sources said the night air raids were the heaviest since the Taleban militia scored major territorial gains, including the capture of the key Bagram Airbase, 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Kabul, from Masood's forces last week.

The Taleban militia on Wednesday repulsed a fierce opposition ground and air attack on this key town north of Kabul, Taleban frontline commanders said here.

The abortive attack on the Taleban warriors by forces of the anti-Taleban alliance was followed by opposition air raids on the town and sparked a fierce heavy weapons battle which lasted throughout the day.

"Early this morning, they launched an attack against our positions, which was pushed back," commander Mulla Azizullah Agha said, adding that eight people in the Taleban-held area — five soldiers and three civilians — were wounded in the fighting.

In the offensive, opposition troops first captured houses in a no-man's land between frontlines, but retreated hours after an infantry battle started between the two sides, the commander said.

"The frontline has not changed," he said from this town 64 kilometers (40 miles) north of the Afghan capital where locals were Wednesday fleeing south to Kabul to escape further fighting.

(AFP)

Mandela's Cabinet Delays Decision on Syrian Deal

PRETORIA — South Africa's Cabinet on Wednesday put off a final decision on a proposed sale of military equipment to Syria worth $641 million, Cabinet secretary Jakes Gerwel said.

The United States, has threatened to cut aid to South Africa if the deal — for tank weapons firing systems — goes ahead.

Gerwel told a press briefing here discussion of the proposed deal had been held over until the next fortnightly Cabinet meeting, during which a conclusion is likely to be reached.

He said the Cabinet had in December decided to refer the matter to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki for further investigation.

This investigation was not yet concluded, he said, and Mbeki was considering such factors as the arms and technology involved, and how the deal would be affected by U.S. legislation.

"We are in the early exploratory stage in this deal," Gerwel said.

President Nelson Mandela has responded to the U.S. threats by saying South Africa will not allow other countries to dictate its foreign policies, and that if the deal is in South Africa's interest, it will go ahead.

(AFP)

Yeltsin Makes Surprise Trip to Kremlin

MOSCOW — Less than two days after leaving hospital, Russian President Boris Yeltsin unexpectedly returned to the Kremlin Wednesday in a move calculated to deflate a parliamentary debate on impeaching him.

Yeltsin, 65, held talks in the Kremlin with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, in their first working meeting since Yeltsin was hospitalized on January 8 suffering from double pneumonia, a Kremlin spokesman said.

After spending about three hours in the Kremlin he returned to his Gorky-9 residence, just west of Moscow, where he has been convalescing since leaving hospital Monday.

The Kremlin talks focused on preparations for a meeting next month between Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice President Al Gore, the January 27 elections in Chechnya, a summit meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) at the end of January, and federal budget debts, Interfax news agency reported.

Chief Kremlin doctor Sergei Mironov said Tuesday that Yeltsin had been feeling "depressed" at his latest illness.

His surprise Kremlin visit coincided with a debate in the Lower House of the Russian Parliament, the State Duma, on an opposition draft resolution to impeach him on grounds of ill health.

The debate was prompted by Communist Deputy Viktor Ilyukhin. The communist move was supported by ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky.

However, it looked set to be purely symbolic, since only last week Duma legal experts concluded that deputies did not have the authority to remove the head of state on grounds of ill health.

Russia's presidential constitution, drawn up by Yeltsin himself, makes impeachment extremely difficult, specifying that such proceedings can only be launched in the case of "treason or another serious crime."

(AFP)

Gorbachev Warns Against NATO Enlargement

MOSCOW — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev urged Russia and NATO Wednesday to sign a treaty providing security guarantees for the whole of Europe, and warned that NATO enlargement would alienate Moscow.

In an article published in the popular daily *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, Gorbachev said Russia and NATO should sign "a treaty under which they both solemnly pledge to guarantee the military security of the whole European continent, beyond the boundaries of NATO."

Gorbachev said Moscow had the right to consider that NATO's plan to expand eastward, taking in former Soviet bloc countries, "will eventually endanger Russia."

He said the plan's "casuistry" had "galvanized those in Russia who have always looked on the United States with suspicion and hostility, and also amazed and alarmed many who sincerely expected a real, equal partnership with America."

He called on Europeans to "reject the thought that Europe's fate can be determined beyond its borders or with the participation of just a few European allies of the United States — that is short-sighted."

Moscow Tuesday reiterated its opposition to NATO expansion, a day after talks here between NATO chief Javier Solana and Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization will hold a key summit in July in Madrid, where it is due to name the former Soviet bloc countries that will be invited to join the alliance.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

QATAR...

Saleh arrived in Qatar earlier Tuesday with a message from Sudan's President Omar al-Beshir, as part of a tour aimed at winning Arab support for the Khartoum government.

Doha has good relations with Khartoum, maintaining permanent official contacts with Sudan and sending emergency aid of around 102,000 dollars to the country.

Khartoum accuses Ethiopia and Eritrea of involvement in the 10 days of fierce fighting on its eastern border, although both countries deny such allegations.

Sudan considers the fighting as a plan by the United States to destabilize Khartoum.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

LAHORE..

that CIA and Mosad are behind the recent assassinations and blasts in Pakistan aiming at fomenting sectarianism in that country.

(IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

DUMA...

In a subsequent vote, 229 deputies were in favor of adopting the text as a basis for further debate, with a final vote due next month. Sixty-three voted against.

Communist Deputy Viktor Ilyukhin, who launched the bid to impeach Yeltsin on grounds of ill-health, denied that the Duma vote was a defeat.

"We already have the result — we have forced the power structures and presidency to talk about the situation," he said.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRANIAN...

ligious practices with complete freedom."

He added, "In view of the freedom of religion and respect for the rights of minorities, Iran can set an excellent example to other countries." The Majlis deputy pointed out that any minority group is an integral part of the great Iranian nation and should play its part in constructing a developed and prosperous country.

Given that the next presidential election is drawing near, the MP was asked what the Iranian Armenians expected from the next president.

He replied that the Armenians expect the next president to take further steps towards the country's development and grant facilities in the agricultural and industrial sectors in a fair manner. "Also, they expect him to promote the cause of the youth and utilize the country's potential resources," the MP noted.

Baghumian concluded by saying that the next cabinet should give top priority to attracting foreign investors and establishing relations with other countries which serve the interests of both sides.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CANADIAN...

dealing with property confiscated from U.S companies by the Castro government. Canada's mining group Sherritt international was the first firm targeted by the measure.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg.5)

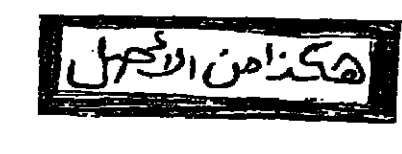
BOEING...

larger versions of the 747."

He said Boeing will continue studying airplanes capable of carrying more passengers than today's 747.

"This remains one of the priorities of our product-development efforts," Woodard said. "When the market develops for such an airplane, we will be ready."

(AFP)



Peru Should Improve Prison Conditions: Poll

LIMA — President Alberto Fujimori is pressing on with business as usual despite six weeks of captivity for 73 hostages here, but Peruvians believe he should improve prison conditions to end the crisis.

A new survey by the polling company Apoyo found that 76 percent of Peruvians agreed with one of the demands of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebels who seized the Japanese Embassy residence on December 17.

The Marxist-Leninist group had originally demanded the release of 440 jailed comrades, then scaled back their demands to improved prison conditions. That demand has since been dropped and the original reinstated.

In a survey of 500 Lima residents between January 10-12, Apoyo found that improving prison conditions was more popular than Fujimori's suggestion of allowing the rebels to leave the country.

One-third of Peru's estimated 23 million people live in Lima.

Sixty-seven percent of Lima residents approved a plan to create a Guarantors' Commission to resolve the prolonged international hostage standoff.

And 53 percent of those surveyed believe the Tupac Amaru rebels took the residence to gain the release of their comrades, while just 11 percent agreed with the government that they were in it for ransom.

Apoyo apparently did not ask if jailed Tupac Amaru rebels should be released to reach a deal, but conversations with Peruvians here indicate that option is overwhelmingly unpopular.

The poll, one of the first to be released since a voluntary moratorium imposed after the hostage-taking, is important since Fujimori has in the past changed gears to accommodate public opinion.

There is no doubt that prison conditions here are horrific, even by Latin American standards.

Jailed rebels are underfed, live in unheated cells, are limited to one family visit per month and barred from listening to the radio or music or reading newspapers, according to lawyers and human rights groups.

"The first time that I saw my son, after he spent 14 months incommunicado, he was almost blind because of the glare of the cell," said Otilia Campos De Polay, mother of Tupac Amaru Founder Victor Polay Campos.

Fujimori on Monday called for business as usual in Peru.

"The isolated act of taking the Japanese residence and the kidnapping of 73 people is not going to push our nation off its fundamental course because, independent of the firm will of Peruvian government policy, there is broad support for peace and stability," he said.

The president also held his regular weekly cabinet meeting Monday, but without his popular foreign minister and agriculture minister. They are among the captives.

The government and rebels have failed to schedule negotiations because of a disagreement over whether the Guerrillas' top demand — freedom for 440 jailed comrades — may be placed on the agenda.

The two sides have made some progress in creating a panel to resolve the crisis.

Both have agreed on Ayacucho Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani to represent the Vatican, a representative of the Red Cross and Canada's Ambassador Anthony Vincent, himself a former hostage.

In addition to the cabinet officers, the captives include Japanese Ambassador Morihisa Aoki, Japanese Executives, Bolivian Ambassador Jorge Gumucio and the President's younger brother. (AFP)



LIMA, Peru: Miguel Rincon Rincon (C), alias "Comandante Francisco," and a leader in the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), is escorted by police after surrendering December 1 in Lima. The armed guerrilla group clashed clashed with police late Nobermber 30, leaving at least six people dead, and surrendered to police and released a family it had taken hostage.

(AFP PHOTO)

Nepal Political Battle Reaches New Peak

KATMANDU — Five by-elections in Nepal on Friday could deal a knockout blow to the government of the Himalayan kingdom which has twice narrowly fought off communist opposition censure motions in the past year.

With the stakes so high, ruling and opposition parties have embarked on intense and increasingly bitter election campaigns.

Girija Prasad Koirala, head of the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) party and a former prime minister, was attacked and stoned by opposition party activists while campaigning last weekend.

He had to escape in a helicopter from the stoning in Purchandi in western Nepal, but still suffered leg injuries and the helicopter windshield was shattered.

Congress and the communist opposition are currently neck-and-neck in the race to fill the vacant seats in the 205 seat lower house.

In the present hung parliament, the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) has 86 seats, Congress has 83, the right wing National Democratic Party (NDP) has 19, the Nepal Sadbhavana (NSP) and Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party (NWPP) three each, with the rest shared by left wing groups and independents.

Congress, the NDP and NSP form the government led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

In all the constituencies at stake around the country, the rival banners and posters showing the congress' tree symbol and the red sun of the Communist Party have been plastered everywhere.

Thousands of people have been turning at rallies like the one at which Koirala was attacked.

If the communists win all five seats they will almost certainly table a new no-confidence motion in parliament, analysts said. The communists sought rebel NDP lawmakers to back their previous motions, but each time the rebels were brought back into line at the last moment.

"Congress wants to win at least four seats in the by-elections because it is tired of immoral rebel NDP MPs who side with the communists at the drop of a hat," said political analyst Sharda Baidya.

Deuba included two of the so-called 'deserters' into his recently reshuffled cabinet. The two cited personal reasons for not turning up for the censure vote.

Parties have launched bitter attacks on each other at campaign rallies.

The NCP-UML candidate for the Kathmandu seat to be decided, Narayan Dhakal, said, "Indian-style criminalization is increasing in the Nepalese politics, there is a serious challenge to democratic norms and values." However, congress candidate Lokesh Dhakal said the communists were only raising the topic, "because they have not found any other issue for the by-elections." "The people of the constituency now fully understand that the NCP-UML won the elections in the past by deceiving the public." (AFP)

U.S. Says Canada Visit Rewards Castro

WASHINGTON - The United States on Tuesday said Canada was rewarding Fidel Castro by sending its foreign minister to visit the island and possibly meet the nation's communist leader.

It doesn't make sense to reward a dictator in our own hemisphere who's completely behind the times, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

You reward him by sending your foreign minister down to visit, by having business as usual, by trading, and we think that's wrong, burns said. He was reacting to Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy's visit to Cuba starting on Tuesday, the highest-level visit by a Canadian official in two decades.

Washington and Ottawa have been at odds over a U.S. Law penalising foreign companies that own property in Cuba confiscated during the 1959 communist revolution from individuals who are now American citizens.

Burns said Axworthy made a right to travel to cuba and the administration has the greatest respect for him. He has an obvious right to travel to Cuba and no one's contesting the matter. He also said the administration was pleased with reports Axworthy would raise human rights issues in Cuba, something Washington has urged Canada and its European allies to do.

We just have a basic disagreement (with Canada) on how to treat Cuba, Burns said. We believe that isolation and containment and economic embargo is the best way to deal with the lone remaining hold-out from another era, the commmist era, the lone remaining hold-out in this hemisphere.

Canadian officials say Ottowa seeks to encourage change in Cuba through dialog and constructive engagement rather than trying to force it through isolation as Washington has done with its 37-year trade embargo on the island.

In Cuba, Axworthy was expected to work on a joint declaration for future cooperation in areas that could include some steps on human rights and government. Such a public declaration would be an advance over private bilateral discussions on such issues, which have taken place recently.

Canadian officials say any such document would be the product of dialog, adding while Canada wants results it is not explicitly putting conditions in its ties with Havana.

This puts Canada on a different course from the European Union, which adopted a tougher stance towards cuba last December and said increased cooperation with havana would depend on Cuba's steps towards economic and political reforms.

Asked if such a declaration would be proof that Canadian policy has been more successful than the U.S. Approach, Burns said: well, we don't see many changes in cuba. I mean, point to a change in cuba.

He said U.S. Adoption of the Helms-Burton law calling for sanctions against foreign companies in Cuba had served to increase the focus in europe as well as in the United States in cuba, Burns said.

Okinawan City Rejects Feasibility Study on U.S. Military Heliport

TOKYO — A city on the southern Japan island of Okinawa on Tuesday rejected the central government's request to allow a feasibility study to be conducted on building a floating heliport for the U.S. military.

Tetsuya Higa, the mayor of Nago city, rejected the request delivered by a defence agency official earlier in the day, officials said.

The planned heliport would place facilities at the U.S Marine's Futenma Air Base, which is to be returned to Japan in five to seven years as part of plans to cut some 20 percent of U.S. bases in Okinawa through relocation.

The sea off camp Schwab, located in Nago, has been the most likely candidate for the floating heliport construction.

The mayor said he wanted Okinawa's prefectural government to be involved in the talks between the city and the central government, according to the officials.

But Okinawan Governor Masahide Ota reportedly refused to play a mediation role. "It is a matter of talks between the state and municipalties," Ota was quoted as saying by *kyodo news*.

Calls for reduction and withdrawal of U.S. forces mounted in Okinawa following a rape of a 12-year-old girl by three U.S. servicemen in 1995. (AFP)



GROZNY, CHECHNAYA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION: An elderly chechen wearing a traditional dagger stands next to machine gun on a car, which has portraits of presidential candidate Shamil Basayev (L) and former Chechen Presdient Dudayev (R) attached to the windshield, as he waits for a colleague in Grozny. Elections in Chechnya are scheduled on 27 January.

(AFP PHOTO)

Asia's First Electric Crematorium for Animals

NEW DELHI — Asia's first electric crematorium for animals opened in Bombay Wednesday.

The crematorium can handle up to 10 small and medium-sized animals a day, the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted S.P. Godrej of the World Wildlife Fund as saying.

The idea for the crematorium came from an animal lover whose pet dog died in 1983 but could not get "a deserving funeral."

(AFP)

Italian Fruit Vendor Gets $48m Tax Demand

ITALY - An Italian fruit and vegetable vendor, who said he had stopped paying his taxes two years ago because he could not afford it, was given a bill for 76 billion lire ($48 million).

Officials served Giuseppe Scirocco, 39, with the demand at his home, AGI news agency reported. His wife fainted when she heard the size of the bill.

i'm just a poor vendor, said Scirocco, who has three children aged 20, 18 and 15. Now they want all that money and I can't even remember what a 100,000 lire note looks like.

(Reuter)

Renewed Strikes Hit S.Korea as Settlement Hopes Fade

SEOUL — Thousands of South Korean workers went back on strike Wednesday to renew attempts to force the government to repeal a contested labor law.

Union leaders emerged from Myongdong cathedral for the first time in a month to lead a protest march in Seoul, but political wrangling dimmed hopes of ending the crisis.

The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), an umbrella group that has spearheaded the industrial unrest, said 180,000 workers had walked out. The Labor Ministry said 65,000 workers downed tools.

Unions went ahead with strikes despite an attempt by President Kim Young Sam to end the conflict by agreeing to Parliament taking a second look at the law which makes it easier for firms to lay off workers. He also suspended arrest warrants against union leaders.

Leaders of the outlawed KCTU led a march in central Seoul by 3,000 workers to the accompaniment of beating drums and gongs.

"Victory is imminent - down with Kim Young-Sam" shouted the marchers, accompanied by traditional folk dancers.

Riot police stood by as the march progressed along Chongro Boulevard, led by Kwon Young-Kil and other KCTU leaders.

(AFP)

Shuttle Atlantis Lands Safely at Kennedy Space Center

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — The space shuttle Atlantis landed Wednesday at the Kennedy Space Center here ending a 10-day space mission during which it linked up with the orbiting Russian space station Mir.

The crew on board Atlantis changed during the mission. John Blaha, who spent 118 days on Mir doing scientific research into human resistance to microgravity, was replaced by Jerry Linengar. Linenger will spend four months on the Russian space station.

Cloud cover over the Kennedy Space Center earlier in the morning forced NASA to delay the shuttle's first landing attempt briefly. It finally touched down at 9:23 a.m. (1423 GMT).

It was the 81st shuttle mission and Atlantis' 18th.

(AFP)

New Bulgarian President Inherits Deadlock

SOFIA — New Bulgarian President Petar Stoyanov formally took office on Wednesday, inheriting political deadlock that has blocked formation of a new government to haul the country back from economic collapse.

Stoyanov, who was elected last November and took the oath of office last Sunday, received the key to the presidency from outgoing President Zhelyu Zhelev, the first democratically elected head of state in Bulgaria's 13 century history.

Stoyanov has already begun mediation efforts and both government and opposition hope the 44-year-old divorce lawyer can break the deadlock over formation of a new cabinet and the date for a general election.

At his inauguration on Sunday, Stoyanov backed opposition calls for a quick election to restore confidence in government and put an end to daily street protests, which entered their 16th day on Wednesday.

The Socialists have offered elections in December, a year ahead of schedule, but want to form a second cabinet following the resignation of Prime Minister Zhan Videnov on December 21. The UDF wants elections in March.

Videnov urged Stoyanov to hand the mandate to the Socialists' nominee for premier, Interior Minister Nikolai Dobrev, saying he had a program ready to bring the country out of crisis.

(Reuter)

Third Bomb Hits Algeria as Fears Rise of Civil War Inferno



ALGIERS, Algeria: (Jan. 21) A fireman walks past damaged cars after a car bomb exploded as a bus drove by killing at least 6 people, according to state television, in Algiers. A second bomb went off hours later killing at least one person.

(AFP PHOTO)

ALGIERS — A new bomb blast rocked Algeria Wednesday as the people of Algiers struggled to come to terms with two deadly bombs the day before which raised fears of a cycle of violence unseen in the country since the war of independence 35 years ago.

The market-place attack in the Garrison town of Blida, 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Algiers, killed at least two people and injured around 20, witnesses said. The explosives had been packed into a shopping bag.

The bombing wave which began Sunday has killed more than 50 people and raised the intensity of the conflict between oppositions and the military-backed government to new heights.

On Tuesday the oppositions, who launched their insurgency five years ago when elections they were poised to win were cancelled, said they planned to press on with their campaign of violence.

Around 150 people have been killed since the Muslim holy month of Ramazan began on January 10.

A series of car bomb attacks and mass knifings have heightened the climate of fear and in the capital Algiers the normally packed streets were semi-deserted and traffic was light, with people apparently staying at home for fear of the bombing campaign.

On Tuesday two car bombs attacks in Algiers killed seven people and wounded many more. On Sunday a powerful car bomb explosion in a crowded cafe district of Algiers killed 42 according to unofficial tolls, and 21 according to official reports.

(AFP)

Shots Ring Out at Japanese Ambassador's Residence in Lima

LIMA — At least five gunshots rang out late Tuesday at the Japanese ambassador's residence where leftist rebels have been holding 73 hostages for more than a month, reporters on the scene said.

Two shots followed quickly by a short burst from an automatic weapon were heard at 12:58 a.m. (0528 GMT), shortly before troops and police surrounding the compound were due to be relieved, the sources said.

No reason for the shooting was immediately given and it was not clear whether it came from the armed Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrilla commando that took over the residence on December 17.

According to unconfirmed reports, the shots were heard as four police officers walked past the residence's main entrance.

The reports sent police and soldiers scrambling to take up combat positions,but after 15 minutes of silence all went back to normal and the troops and police on duty were relieved. At 1:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) the area was quiet.

In a sign of growing frustration, Finance Minister Jean Arthuis demanded the release of Credit Foncier de France (CFF) Governor Jerome Meysonnier and seven other executives held since Friday.

But unions representing the hundreds of workers at the bank's headquarters near the Place de l'Opera rejected proposals made overnight by government mediator Philippe Rouvillois to open dialoge.

It was the fifth such incident involving gunfire or explosions since the hostage crisis began.

On Tuesday, special troops in the area staged combat exercises and hurled rocks and sticks into the compound, taunting the rebels inside.

A police colonel told AFP that the exercises were normal procedure under such circumstances, but denied the rock-throwing incident witnessed by several journalists, including an AFP reporter.

(AFP)



LIMA, Peru: (Jan. 21) Members of the special operations unit of the Peruvian police approach the outer gate of the residence of the Japanese ambassador in Lima. The police have stepped up security around the residence where rebels of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement are still holding 73 hostages.

(AFP PHOTO)

Explosion Outside Pro-Abortion Premises

WASHINGTON — An explosion occurred outside the offices of a prominent abortion rights organization here Wednesday, police and witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

A hispanic man was reportedly seen in front of a building in downtown Washington holding "some kind of explosive device in his hand," said Haydee Carter of the Metropolitan Police Department.

"The device went off in his hand and he ran off," said Carter. "We don't know who he is."

Carter said Washington police were on the alert throughout the city for an annual protest by anti-abortion groups.

A suspect package was also found in a hotel close to the White House, local radio reported. Bomb squad officers were at the scene.

An area 200 meters (yards) around the White House was sealed off by police.

The explosion occurred on the 24th anniversary of the controversial Supreme Court decision Roe Vs Wade which legalized abortion.

(AFP)

Frustration Mounts Over Bank Standoff

PARIS — French bank workers held their governor and senior executives hostage for a sixth day Wednesday as unions rejected a mediator's proposals to end the dispute over plans to liquidate the bank.

"We want the withdrawal of the Arthuis plan and not simply its suspension," said a union official after a staff meeting Tuesday morning.





Dubai's Gold Trade Set to Surge on Higher Indian Demand

DUBAI — Dubai's gold trade reached new heights in 1996 and is set to surge ahead in the coming years after its main market, India, eased restrictions on imports of the precious metal, officials said on Tuesday.

The Emirate, dubbed the Hong Kong of the Middle East, has already overtaken Singapore to become one of the top three gold trade centers in the world, said P. Pathy, manager of Persian Gulf Countries and Business Development for the Middle East and India at the World Gold Council (WGC) in Dubai.

Dubai's gold imports hit an all-time high of 350 tons in 1996, an increase of nearly 10 percent on the previous year's record of 318 tons, he said.

"The trade is projected to rise ... during the next years as there will be more gold exports to India following its decision this month to allow the import of more quantities by individuals," Pathy told AFP.

India, the biggest gold market in the world, decided this month to double the ceiling on gold imports to 10 kilograms (22 pounds) per person. It was the second increase since 1993, when a similar decision prompted Dubai to sharply boost its gold imports to meet the market needs of the subcontinent.

India has remained the top market for Dubai's gold re-exports given its proximity to the emirate, the presence of a large Indian community in Dubai, and the efficiency in handling gold business by local traders, Pathy said.

"What you find in Dubai is not found in any other place in the world. The efficiency in handling the gold business is much better," he said.

"When, for example, someone needs a certain volume of gold, he gets it immediately without any delay. Such factors have made Dubai the unquestioned leader of gold supplies to India and other regional countries."

More than 80 percent of Dubai's gold imports are re-exported to India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other countries. The rest is consumed in the domestic market, one of the fastest growing gold markets in the world.

Apart from the gold business, Dubai is also the main commercial entrepot of the region, supplying it with most of its consumer needs. Dubai's trade of around 80 billion dirhams ($21.7 billion) in 1996 accounted for more than one-fifth of the Persian Gulf region's total non-oil trade.

Estimates by WGC, a non-profitable organization seeking to promote gold worldwide, showed India had remained by far the biggest gold market, with a consumption of around 500 tons in 1996 compared with nearly 477 tons in 1995. Demand is set to grow after New Delhi lifted the import ceiling.

"This market (India) is always thirsty for gold. It is the most important reason for the boom in the gold business in Dubai," Pathy said.

But he cited other factors for the upturn in Dubai, the second biggest and richest member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after Abu Dhabi. They include liberalization of gold imports in other regional countries, a drop in gold prices, and higher economic growth because of a surge in oil prices in 1996.

"It is a simple formula .. When you have more money there will be more spending on gold and some other products," he said.

"Last year, oil prices were high and this has brought the region more money, boosted economic activity and consequently income and spending. This combined with a decline in gold prices to increase consumption.

"Gold prices last year dropped to their lowest level in more than three years. The growth in consumption has again proved that there is always a link between the decline in gold prices and the increase in demand. " (AFP)

Greenspan: No Immediate Inflation But Labor Markets Tight

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan on Tuesday described the U.S. economy as vigorous and ... no immediate inflation ... but warned that the present ... was 'transitional'.

Greenspan, appearing before the Senate Budget Committee, predicted that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would show three percent growth in 1996 and insisted that his comments last month on possible 'irrational exuberance' in U.S. stock prices had been interpreted out of context.

He also expressed opposition to a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. constitution, which he said would be difficult to enforce.

"He didn't drop any bombs," said analyst Michael Boss of the research firm Aubrey Lanston in a television interview.

"His comments were very well balanced." But he characterized the chairman's suggestion that upward wage pressures might lie around the corner as 'a shot across the bow' that could herald Fed intervention this year to raise short term interest rates.

Greenspan said the U.S. labor market was "tight ... By every measure," circumstances that sooner or later could drive up consumer prices.

Despite such a hint, Wall Street chose to focus instead on Greenspan's assessment that the economy was showing few signs of inflationary pressure.

The Dow Jones industrial average of Blue Chip issues was up 29 points to 6,874.66 in early afternoon trading.

While Greenspan called recent rises in the stock market 'breathtaking,' he steered clear of the sort of commentary that jolted traders last December and sparked a selling frenzy.

Indeed, Greenspan stressed that his comment December 5 about possible 'irrational exuberance' in U.S. equity prices had been misinterpreted.

Greenspan told the committee Tuesday he had merely been trying to point out the range of factors taken into consideration by the Fed's Policy-making Open Market Committee.

He explained that while Fed policy makers traditionally examine the flow of goods and services in the economy, other factors — namely asset prices, such as those for real estate, stocks and bonds — had to be taken into account as well.

While such prices behave reasonably most of the time, Greenspan asked, "When would we know when that was not the case?" "What I was trying to do in that particular speech was to try to convey the whole structure of the markets which we think we need to be very conscious of if we are to implement our policy ..

"It was not a shot from the hip ... We thought long and in detail that any such statement could very well have immediate market effects." But while "everyone noticed what I said," he added, "They didn't read as much of the context in which that was being stated as I would have preferred."

Overall, according to Greenspan, "the . . . Performance of the U.S. economy has continued to surpass most forecasters' expectations." At present, he added, "there are few signs of the imbalances and inflationary tensions that have disrupted past expansions." The consumer price index gained 3.3 percent last year but the increase in the core rate, which excludes food and energy, was limited to 2.6 percent.

While fourth quarter growth figures have not yet been released, "it is apparent that real GDP posted an increase in the neighborhood of three percent over the four quarters of 1996. " Greenspan attributed the economy's controlled inflation in the face of high employment levels to 'heightened job insecurity', which he said was behind "a significant part of the restraint on compensation and the consequent muted price inflation." But he warned that "the relatively modest wage gains we've seen are a transitional rather than a lasting phenomenon." Recent pickups in certain wage indices suggested that the transition was already under way, according to Greenspan, who hinted that the Fed would be closely monitoring wage pressures in the months to come.

He told the commitee he was unsympathetic to a balanced budget amendment "because I am terribly much concerned about the issue of employing detailed economic policy within the constitution itself," Greenspan said. (AFP)

South Korea Expected to Face OECD Criticism Over Labor Law

PARIS — Senior South Korean officials will face an uphill task in seeking to avoid South Korea being censored for its controversial new labor legislation by a high-level Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) here Wednesday, European diplomats said.

The legislation, which has triggered nearly month-long strike action by Korean trade unions, with unprecedented international labor support, was to be reviewed at a specially-called meeting of the OECD Employment, Labor and Social Affairs Committee (ELSA).

The diplomats said they expected Korea to come in for sharp criticism at the meeting following successive hearings here late Tuesday involving consultative bodies representing OECD labor and industry organizations.

They said Scandinavian countries, the United States and others were likely to press for 'plain language' to be included in a report by the ELSA on the controversial law, to be presented to the OECD council of permanent representatives on Thursday.

The council is the political body overseeing the day-to-day activities of the prestigious 'club' of advanced industrial nations, between its annual ministerial meetings.

The same sources said a substantial number of OECD member countries feel the new Korean Labor Code, and the Security Agency Bill adopted along with it, are clearly out of step with OECD members' basic commitment to human rights and democratic rule.

They also cited 'considerable irritation' in OECD ranks over Seoul's apparent disregard for Korea's own undertaking last October to reform its legislation 'in line with internationally accepted standards', that include the basic rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining.

The undertaking was made to head off an open challenge on the labor issue which could have delayed Korea's entry into the OECD as its 29th member last month.

Because of concerns voiced by several countries in this regard, the OECD Council gave the elsa a mandate to monitor the progress of Korean Labor Law Reform, providing a procedural basis for Wednesday's committee session.

A European official said a statement on Korea was likely to be issued after Thursday's council meeting, but admitted that it might possibly be 'more diplomatically worded' than the ELSA report.

"As things stand, the whole affair in any case means a serious loss of face for South Korea," he added.

At Tuesday's meeting between the ELSA bureau and a 23-member delegation of the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), which represents some 68 million union members in OECD countries, three Korean trade unionists were questioned in detail by OECD delegates.

Participants said the questions had a bearing both on the contents of the labor bill, due to become law on March 1, and the circumstances in which it was adopted, at a predawn national assembly session which was not notified to the opposition.

The questioning followed an initial presentation by TUAC's Norwegian Vice President Evy Buverud-Pedersen. Echoing a remark she made earlier Tuesday at a TUAC news conference, she said the adoption of the 'regressive' new labor law and the government's handling of the affair were 'a slap in the face of the OECD as an organization' and the countries backing Korean entry.

In a submission to the ELSA, the TUAC said the OECD must 'conclude that the legislation changes do not in any way meet international standards on freedom of Association and collective bargaining'.

It said the OECD must therefore "condemn the Korean government for having introduced regressive legislation on these issues and for justifying it in the name of its commitment given to the OECD".

The TUAC said the OECD should ask the government to withdraw the legislation adopted on December 26, cancel warrants for the arrest of trade union leaders, and open 'Dialog and negotiations' with Korean unions on 'a genuine reform to labor legislation'.

The ELSA bureau subsequently heard the views of a Delegation of the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) - the TUAC's opposite number on the employers' side.

This allowed officials of the Korean Industry Federation (KIF) to state their case for a legislation affording increased labor 'flexibility', participants said.

The two hearings, in preparation for Wednesday's ELSA talks, were attended by delegates from most of the OECD member countries, participants said. (AFP)

Democrats Announce Voluntary Guidelines for Fund-Raising

WASHINGTON — The Democratic Party, scarred by fund-raising scandals during the 1996 election campaign, announced its own voluntary guidelines Tuesday aimed at curbing contributions from questionable sources.

The Democratic National Committee made its announcement as President Bill Clinton called for 'tough' campaign finance reform laws to be passed by Congress to win back the confidence of voters.

The DNC guidelines will limit contributions from any source to $100,000.

Moreover, the party said it would not accept contributions from non-citizens who are permanent residents, and those from U.S. subsidiaries of foreign corporations, which are generally legal, but which have been criticized.

The guidelines also call for any contribution of $5,000 or more to be accompanied by a check tracking form to allow the source of the funds to be researched.

The Party also said it would establish new procedures for screening guests at the White House to ensure that non-citizens or others disqualified from contributions would be barred from fund-raising events.

The Democrats have been accused of trading access to Clinton for influence on foreign policy and the White House was roundly criticized for entertaining a Chinese arms dealer to a coffee social at the invitation of a democratic fundraiser.

Clinton and the democrats remain haunted by the 'indogate' scandal which broke at the height of his re-election bid last year.

The initial questions about donations from the Riady family, Jakarta-based owners of the Lippo Group conglomerate, spawned almost daily press reports about Clinton's 'Asian connections'. John Huang, head of the Democratic Fundraising Efforts, was relieved of his duties after the campaign and $1.2 million of the $3.4 million he raised have been returned.

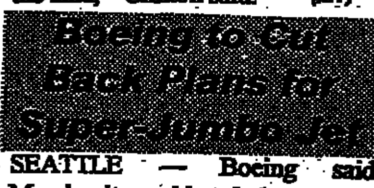
In a speech to the DNC, the president embraced a bipartisan bill introduced in Congress Tuesday that calls for a ban on funds from non-U.S. citizens, spending limits by candidates and an end to unrestricted contributions to the party called 'soft money'. "It is tough, it is balanced, it is credible, it should become the law of the land," Clinton said. (AFP)

Former Japanese City Mayor Gets Three Years in Bribery Scandal

TOKYO — A former Japanese city mayor was sentenced to three years in prison and fined 140 million yen ($1.2 million) Wednesday for his role in a bribery scandal involving major construction companies.

The Tokyo district court handed down the sentence to Toru Ishii, 71, former mayor of Sendai, the capital of Miyagi prefecture in northern Japan.

Ishii was arrested in June 1993 and was charged with receiving a total of 140 million yen in bribes from seven major contractors in 1992 in connection with the city's public works projects when he was mayor. (AFP)

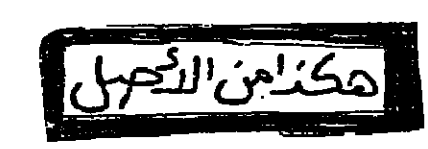


SEATTLE — Boeing said Monday it would scale back plans to develop a super-Jumbo Jet capable of carrying up to 550 passengers, concentrating instead on long-range, medium-size airplanes.

"Many customers are telling us that they plan to serve fast-growing travel markets with more long-range, medium-sized airplanes like the Boeing 777 and 767," Ron Woodard, President of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, said in a statement.

Woodard said Boeing had been working with airlines on a new version of the 747 Jumbo Jet capable of carrying up to 550 people, but said "sufficient market demand has not yet developed to justify committing the significant investment required to develop

(Contd on Pg.14)





KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fl, United States (January 19): The space shuttle Atlantis moves away from the Russian space station Mir, as seen from the Mir, with the earth in the background. The Atlantis and her six person crew have been docked with the Russian station for five days of joint operations.

(AFP PHOTO)

Engagement for Britain's Prince Edward

LONDON -- Britain's Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth's youngest son, is planning to announce his engagement to long-time girlfriend Sophie Rhys-Jones this summer, the *Express* newspaper said recently.

The prince and PR girl finally decided to put an engagement on the agenda after slipping away for a romantic two-week holiday before Christmas, the newspaper said.

No one was available at Buckingham Palace to comment on the report.

Edward, 32, has been dating the blonde middle-class publicist, who bears a resemblance to Princess Diana, for three years, but royal watchers have reported that he has always been reluctant to formalize the relationship until he had made a success of his television production company.

The public separations and divorces of his two brothers, heir to the throne Prince Charles and Prince Andrew, were also reported to have put pressure on Edward to make sure that any match he made would last.

But with the completion of a £1.3 million ($2.2 million) deal for his company with U.S. television network CBS last week and the divorces of his brothers complete, the path appeared clear for another royal wedding, the newspaper said.

He wanted to be certain in his own mind that marriage to Sophie would work, and that it wouldn't end the way his brothers' marriages did, the *Express* said. Edward is now firmly convinced Sophie is the right partner for life.

The engagement will coincide with the 50th wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. They plan to share their golden wedding anniversary with other couples who wed in 1947 by inviting them to a special garden party at Buckingham Palace on July 15.

The royal couple married on November 20, 1947. The queen's success at matrimony contrasts sharply with those of her four children, three of whom are divorced, and her only sister Princess Margaret whose marriage also ended in court. (Reuter)

Cellular Phones Banned During Mid-Term Exams

CAIRO -- Egypt's Education Ministry has banned the use of cellular phones during mid-term exams to prevent cheating, the government daily *Al-Gomhoriya* newspaper reported recently.

"Students caught with a portable phone will see their exam results annulled ... because it can be used in cheating like calculators," Mohammad Khalil, an undersecretary at the Education Ministry, told the newspaper.

The ministry also banned the use of portable phones inside classrooms during the normal school year.

Mobile phones have flooded the Egyptian market since they were introduced here in November to coincide with the third Middle East and North Africa economic conference.

The People's Assembly has also banned MPS from carrying cellular phones to parliamentary sessions. (AFP)

Radio Australia to Be Axed

SYDNEY -- The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's overseas short-wave service, Radio Australia, is likely to be dumped as an economy measure, the *Sydney Morning Herald* recently quoted a leaked report as saying.

The long-awaited report by media expert Bob Mansfield into restructuring the national broadcaster proposes funding for the service be put instead into Australian rural and regional broadcasting services.

The report by Mansfield, a former chief executive of the John Fairfax Media Empire which publishes the *Herald*, is due to be presented to the Australian government and simultaneously released to the public on Friday.

His inquiry into the ABC focused on its role and functions but coincided with a decision by Prime Minister John Howard's conservative government to slash the ABC's 1997-98 funding of 523 million dollars (U.S.$408 million) by more than 55 million dollars.

Many employees have been sacked in deep funding cuts already announced.

Radio Australia employs 156 journalists and transmits in nine languages throughout the Asia-Pacific region, in which it has been highly respected as an independent and reliable broadcaster for half a century.

It broadcasts the reports of ABC journalists from all over the world in Indonesian, Thai, Khmer, Vietnamese, two Chinese languages, Papua New Guinea Pidgin, French and English.

It ranks as one of the most powerful English language networks in the region.

The *Herald* said the Mansfield report is also recommending the ABC contract out the bulk of its drama and documentary production to the private sector, which will also lead to big job losses at the national broadcaster.

However, the move away from in-house production towards the British channel four model of commissioning work from independents would be welcomed by Australia's thriving film industry.

The *Herald* said Mansfield believes the ABC can continue to function with a budget of close to 500 million dollars and that his recommendations were aimed at improving its efficiency. (AFP)

Hospitals Treat Hundreds for Overeating

MANAMA -- Hospitals and clinics are treating hundreds of people daily for overeating between fasts during the Muslim holy month of Ramazan, a newspaper reported recently.

About 20 percent of the 600 patients visiting Sulmaniya Hospital's emergency department daily are suffering from diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain and other complications from overeating, doctors told the *Gulf Daily News*.

Muslims must abstain from drink, food, tobacco and sex from dawn to dusk, during the month of Ramazan and doctors urged people to eat in small quantities at frequent intervals during the night rather than gorge on big meals.

"It is also recommended to take the last meal during the early hours of the day, just before the Ramazan fast," Doctor Mohammad Amin al-Awadi, chairman of the Sallmaniya Hospital's emergency department, told the paper.

"The main problem is the intake of too much food, causing indigestion. This is mainly due to people swallowing their food without chewing it properly," he said.

"My advice to such people is to eat slowly, chew properly and take food in small quantities. It should be supplemented by a lot of fluids," he said.

He advised people suffering from peptic ulcers and other gastric problems to avoid eating spicy food on empty stomachs and said people suffering from renal problems and diabetes should drink lots of fluids. (AFP)

Smart Clothes Betray Chain-Saw Killer

SIEGEN, Germany -- A man who cut up a house-mate with a chain-saw at the weekend betrayed himself to a neighbor because of his unusually smart dress, the prosecutor's office said recently.

The neighbor who called at the house in Siegen, north Rhine-Westphalia, commented that the man, normally scruffy, was looking exceptionally smart, to which the man replied he had changed after chopping up one of the people he shared the house with.

At first the neighbor was incredulous, but when he returned to the house with other people some hours later they found bloody body parts in the cellar wrapped in a carpet and in a skip. (AFP)

International Criticism Taking Toll on Swiss Pride

GENEVA -- A relentless assault by a U.S. senator and Jewish groups on Switzerland's dealings with Nazi Germany has shaken this country's self-image as a haven of peace and humanity.

The land of mountains, rolling alpine meadows and chalets -- the home of the Red Cross -- is perplexed by the turn of events and gripped by frantic self-analysis and guilt on one side and anger on the other.

"How did it come to this?" the newspaper *Sonntagszeitung* lamented about the criticism raining on Switzerland.

"Most of the Swiss public had no knowledge of what happened during the second world war. Many don't want to know."

The string of charges is seemingly endless: that Switzerland profited in numerous ways from World War II, that Swiss banks failed to hand over the assets of Holocaust victims to their heirs, that the Nazis sold Jewish jewels in Switzerland, that the Swiss turned away Jewish refugees.

Newspapers have devoted pages to interviews with key politicians and historians and to analytical musings. Television and radio stations have broadcast debates and analysis.

"Most of the Swiss public had no knowledge of what happened during the second world war," said Thomas Lyssy, spokesman for the Swiss Federation of Hebrew Congregations. "Many don't want to know."

The Swiss have long prided themselves on their country's status as a haven of peace. They believed their traditional neutrality and isolation from the world -- they have shunned membership in the United Nations, NATO and the European Union -- made them different.

When outgoing President Jean-Pascal Delamuraz recently dismissed as "blackmail and extortion" Jewish demands for a 250 million Swiss franc ($180 million) compensation fund to be set up for Holocaust victims, he was saying what many Swiss think.

In opinion polls, roughly half the Swiss questioned said they backed Delamuraz. But after the ensuing international outcry, he apologized and the country appears to be moving toward setting up a fund.

Still, Jewish groups have reported a rising tide of anti-Semitism, with ugly letters being sent to Jewish organizations and newspapers and graffiti sprayed on a Jewish restaurant and a community center in Zurich.

As a neutral nation, Switzerland did not take sides in World War II, continuing to have dealings with both Germany and the Nazis' enemies, as did other neutrals like Sweden.

Anyway, Switzerland had little choice when war broke out in 1939, said Philippe Burrin, a World War II historian.

"It was a small country surrounded by two major (Axis) powers, Germany and Italy. In that situation ... they had to comply to some extent with German demands on Swiss economic resources," he said.

"Switzerland was responsible for the J-stamp in the passport of the Jews. This is true. This is horrible. But on the other hand, Switzerland took over 27,000 Jewish refugees and saved them from the Holocaust. It gave refuge to over 200,000 people threatened by the Nazi regime, among them a lot of American soldiers."

The 50th anniversary of the end of the war in 1995 renewed interest in wartime dealings.

Switzerland made its first admission of guilt then, when President Kaspar Villiger officially apologized to Jews for the wartime Swiss government urging the Nazis to stamp Jewish passports with a 'J' to make it easier to weed them out at the border.

In the United States, investigations began into declassified U.S. documents from the era, led by Senator Alfonse d'Amato, which uncovered a string of damaging material.

"Most of what has come out (in the United States) is there to be read in historical books, but the public at large doesn't read them," Lyssy said.

Jewish groups in the United States and elsewhere had long alleged that the Swiss were holding up to 250 million Swiss francs ($180 billion) in unclaimed assets belonging to Holocaust victims or their heirs.

Swiss banks say the true figure is a tiny fraction of that.

While admitting that 30,000 Jewish refugees were turned away from the Swiss border during the war, Switzerland points out it also took in nearly that many Jews.

It acknowledges it handled hundreds of millions of dollars worth of gold from Nazi Germany, much of which turned out to have been looted from national banks of occupied countries. But officials stress it handled even more gold from the Allies.

There were negative aspects to Swiss actions, but there also was a lot of good, said Thomas Borer, head of a government task force re-examining the Swiss role in World War II.

"Switzerland was responsible for the J-stamp in the passport of the Jews. This is true. This is horrible," Borer said. "But on the other hand, Switzerland took over 27,000 Jewish refugees and saved them from the Holocaust. It gave refuge to over 200,000 people threatened by the Nazi regime, among them a lot of American soldiers."

Interior Minister Ruth Dreifuss, herself a Jew, said: "What we are seeing is the difficulty of coming to terms with history. This isn't something that can happen overnight. We are wrestling with the truth."

(AFP)

Communist Leader Defends Calcutta Street Clean-Up

NEW DELHI -- The Communist ruler of Calcutta has defended his controversial move to evict thousands of street vendors, a newspaper said recently.

"It is impossible to walk on the pavements," the *Telegraph* quoted Jyoti Basu, chief minister of the state of West Bengal, as saying.

"The city is full of cows, buffalos, calves, illegal rickshaws and hand carts," Basu said. "Where will the pedestrians walk? This encroachment has to be stopped at any cost."

Basu said street sellers could not be allowed to do business on Calcutta's clogged pavements just because they happened to be poor.

"We do not intend to rob them of their living," he said, adding the state had plans to rehabilitate them.

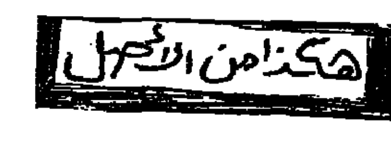
Basu's Communist Party of India-Marxist, which has been governing West Bengal since 1977, has been accused in the past of encouraging the poor to take over the pavements.

Last year his government launched "Operation Sunshine" to clear the streets. That action, however, came under attack from within the Communist Party as being anti-poor.

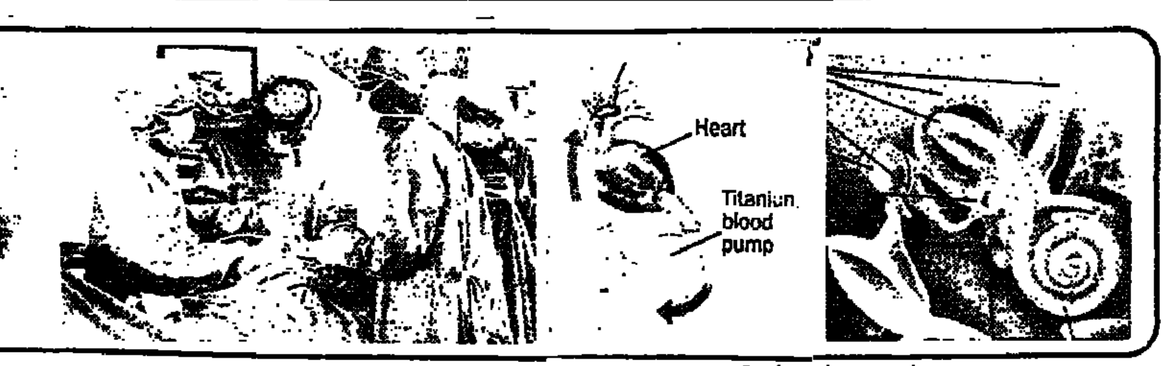
The government was also heavily criticized last year when it banned traditional hand-pulled rickshaws from Calcutta's streets, saying they were too slow and caused traffic jams. The Calcutta Rickshaw Pullers Association claimed the ban affected 100,000 people.

Calcutta, the capital of West Bengal, is home to some 12 million people, hundreds of thousands of whom live on pavements.

(AFP)



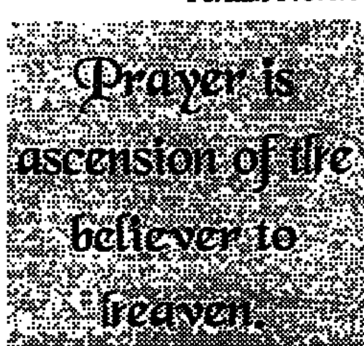




THOUGHT

It is quite diffcult to become a learned scholar, but to become a true human being is almost impossible.

Persian Proverb



PRAYER

Noon	12:16
Evening	17:44
Dawn (tomorrow)	05:34
Sunrise (tomorrow)	07:10

Researchers Discover Gene Apparently Linked to Schizopher

WASHINGTON — Medical researchers have found a gene apparently linked to schizophrenia and say it may explain indirectly why those who suffer from the disease are very often chain smokers.

"Schizophrenics are the most heavy smokers of any psychotic patients ... and it had been overlooked as a clue to the biology of schizophrenia," said Robert Freedman of the Denver veterans affairs medical center, who led the study.

Freedman and colleagues at the University of Colorado discovered that schizophrenia is inherited and they traced the trait in nine families from Colorado and Utah who have a high incidence of the disease.

The source of the mental problem was located on a spot on chromosome 15, the same area that controls a nicotine receptor called alpha-7.

The receptor helps filter unnecessary information — such as sights and background noises, which schizophrenics are unable to do, causing them to suffer information overload. Since nicotine stimulates the receptor, patients who smoke are able to get a few moments of relief from their affliction.

"All the patients reported they feel great after a cigarette," Freedman said in a report published in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The scientist said he was collaborating with drug companies in trying to find a treatment that targets the nicotine receptor to help around four million Americans who suffer from schizophrenia.

Freedman insisted that his findings do not promote smoking as a cure for schizophrenia, but provide some reassurance to families of schizophrenics who wonder why their loved ones cannot stop smoking.

Freedman also said he had yet to prove his theory by locating the mutation that would link the schizophrenic trait to the nicotine receptor gene.

He pointed out that in the families he researched, many of the patients' siblings had inherited the same trait but did not suffer from the mental illness.

(AFP)

Euthanasia Death Raises Heat in Political Battle Over Australian Laws

DARWIN, Australia — A 69-year-old cancer patient has become the third person to die under Australia's unique voluntary euthanasia legislation, raising the stakes in the political battle soon to resume over right to die laws.

The patient opted for medically supervised suicide because he could not bear the pain of stomach cancer, which had not been relieved by paliative care, Coalition for Voluntary Euthanasia spokesman doctor Robert Marr said.

The man, who lived locally, died Sunday using a self-administered computerized injection delivered by the so-called "death machine" developed by euthanasia advocate doctor Philip Nitschke.

Marr, who announced the latest death, said the patient's family had requested his name and medical history be withheld from the glare of publicity which surrounded previous euthanasia cases.

But he said the case showed the Northern territory's rights of the terminally ill act, introduced in July, was working well after initial teething problems.

"He had no major trouble getting the signatures for consent so I think it's fair to say the law is now operating smoothly," Marr told AFP.

However, the Australian Senate is expected to decide by April if the Northern territory legalislation, the first in the world legalizing voluntary euthanasia, should be allowed to stand. The law applies only in the Northern territory.

A Senate committee is currently studying euthanasia, following the passage through the house of representatives late last year of the Andrews' bill seeking to override the legislation.

The bill, moved by government backbencher Kevin Andrews and supported by both Prime Minister John Howard and opposition leader Kim Beazley, is expected to go before the Senate for debate in March.

The latest death was condemned Wednesday by opponents of euthanasia, including the catholic church.

"This is a deplorable matter and the sooner the Australian Parliament deals with the Andrews bill the better," a spokesman for catholic archbishop Edward Clancy quoted him saying.

But supporters of euthanasia say indications the law is working as intended may help it survive the Senate, where it will be subjected to more intense scrutiny and challenge than it faced in the House of Representatives.

"I would say the outcome is very close, too close to call," labor backbench MP Anthony Albanese, a leader of the pro-euthanasia campaign, told AFP.

"The use of the legislation shows it is actually working and that the people who have been suffering have been able to end their lives in a compassionate and dignified way.

"Opponents of the law have got to come to terms with the fact that they are prolonging the agony of those people suffering from terminal cancer and acting against their wishes."

Albanese said he believed although a conscience vote was allowed, some MPs had felt pressured by the fact that both leaders supported the Andrews bill. But this would not necessarily be the case in the Senate.

"It is ironic that parliamentarians have the right to a conscience vote but that conscience vote is attempting to deny a similar right to the terminally ill."

The latest death followed those of cancer patients Bob Dent, 66, of Darwin, last September and Janet Mills, 58, of south Australia, three weeks ago, both of which were supervised by Nitschke.

(AFP)

People With Depression Getting Inadequate Treatment

CHICAG — People suffering from depression are getting seriously inadequate treatment despite the availability of effective help for more than 35 years in the United States, a panel of doctors says.

In an article published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* this week, the doctors cite "an enormous gap between our knowledge about the correct diagnosis and treatment of depression and the actual treatment that is being received."

The panel, organized by the National Depressive and Manic Depressive Association, attributes the shortfall to failure to recognize the problem, limited access to treatment, fear of stigma and the complexity of psychiatric disorders.

The panel, chaired by Dr. Robert Hirschfeld of the University of Texas, recommended more patient education, greater collaboration among health care professionals and increased treatment research.

The association said depression is one of the most frequent and pernicious of medical illnesses with a 15 percent risk of death from suicide in patients hospitalized for depression.

(AFP)

Cancer Deaths Linked to Spouse's Smoking

ATLANTA — Nonsmoking women married to smokers have a 20 percent higher lung cancer death rate than women married to men who have never smoked, according to a study released recently.

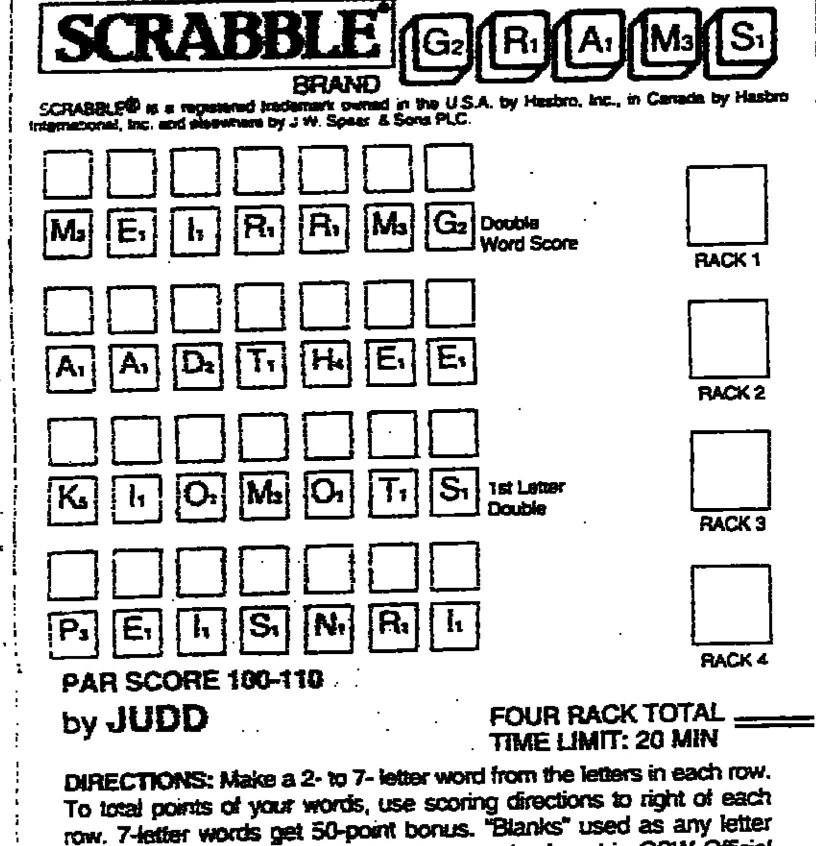
The study by the American Cancer Society and Emory University, suggesting that exposure to secondhand smoke may contribute to lung cancer deaths, was published in the january issue of the journal *"Cancer Causes et Control."*

The researchers analyzed data from 114,286 female and 19,549 male never-smokers, married to smokers, and compared it with that in 77,000 female and 77,000 male never-smokers whose spouses did not smoke.

Lung cancer death rates, adjusted for other factors such as age, race, diet, and occupation, were 20 percent higher among women whose husbands smoked compared with those married to nonsmokers.

In 1992, the us Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared that secondhand smoke, is a human carcinogen, following the release of similar studies.

(AFP)



Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

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H4	Y4	G2	I1	E1	N1	E1	RACK 1 =	64
P3	A1	R1	L1	A1	Y4	S1	RACK 2 =	74
C3	R1	A1	W4	L1	Y4		RACK 3 =	42
D2	U1	T1	C3	H4			RACK 4 =	11
							JUDD'S TOTAL	191

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7-21

The cold season

"There's only one way of treating the common cold — with contempt," said one frustrated scientist back in the 19th century. One hundred years and lots of research later, the common cold still has us beaten. Scientitsts have no way of preventing it, nor any satisfactory ways of getting rid of it. As it is often said, a cold will last for seven days if you treat it and will go in a week if you don't.

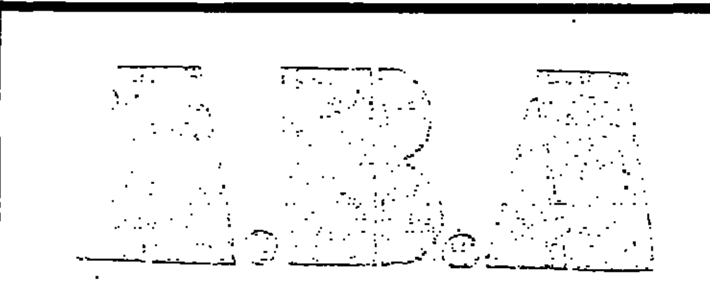
In the course of research, some myths have been blasted. It is now almost certain that colds are caused by viruses, not wet hair, rain or chilly weather. The number of people with colds certainly goes up in wet and cold seasons but that may be because people spend more time indoors and in closer contact with others. In a British experiment, thinly dressed people were drenched in water and then exposed to cold air. But the number of colds among them was no more or less than another group who were warm and dry.

It is impossible to build immunity against colds or create a vaccine against them, because colds are caused not by a single virus but by any one of 150-200 viruses. These viruses change and combine cleverly all the time, so that researchers can never catch up with them.

So what is the best way of preventing a cold? There isn't much one can do but knowing how cold spread can help you take precautions. Avoid people with colds as much as possible — a sneeze spreads the virus as far as 20 feet in the air. Objects handled by the infected person carry the virus, the worst offenders being door knobs, bathroom taps, phones and counter tops. A person with a cold cannot be isolated totally, but one can wash one's own hands as often as possible in the cold-catching season, especially before eating or touching the face. Keeping up one's resistance with balanced meals helps in the long run. Latest research suggests that your defenses are weak when you are under stress.

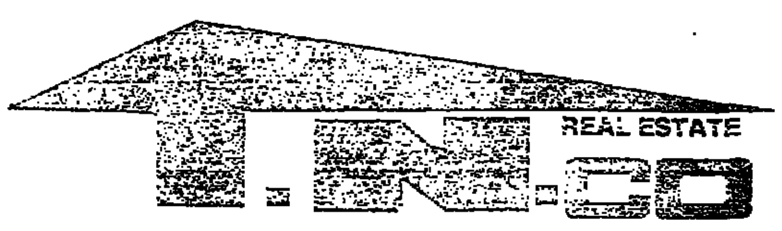
Physicians are not very happy with over-the-counter cold remedies, because they are only a hotchpotch of different drugs to give a few hours of relief from the discomforts of a cold. But some home remedies get the green signal: steam inhalation to dislodge congestion and gargling with warm salted water to disinfect a sore throat. It works.

(Courtesy Sunday Times)



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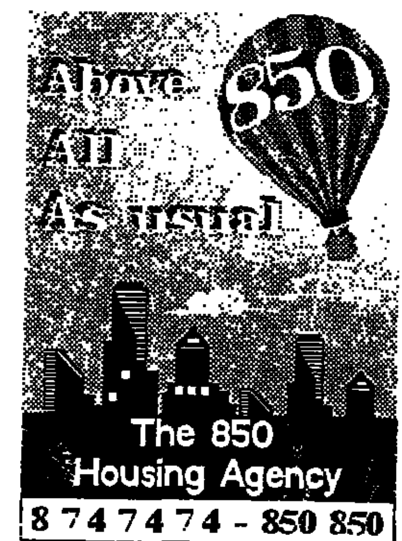
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Truth Commission to Scrutinize Media Role in Apartheid Era

JOHANNESBURG — The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on Apartheid era excesses in South Africa, has turned its sights on the role of the media in those times — a subject largely untouched until now.

The commission's spokesman John Allen said that "the question of organizing a special hearing on the media is under review." Jannette Minnie, head of the Freedom of Expression Institute (FXI) said: medias are often very negatively viewed in South Africa, particularly by the black communities, because they are generally seen as not doing their job under apartheid. " FXI, a nongovernmental organization, has been working for the past month on a report for the TRC on the legislative arsenal used by the apartheid regime to control the media, government propaganda, the individual behavior of journalists, official and self-censorship, the repression suffered by some, and the working conditions of black journalists.

By studying how the media handled the major events of the apartheid era, such as the student uprising in Soweto in 1976, the researchers commissioned by the FXI will try to establish whether journalists were "doing their job properly even when confronted with a barrage of the legislation", Minnie said.

Joe Thloloe, ex-managing director of the *Sowetan* black readership paper, said: "Some people and organizations in the media bolstered apartheid, suppressed information, cooperated with the security forces or practised apartheid. " Graeme Addison, who abandoned journalism because he was "disillusioned" and became a teacher, said: "News manipulation was the order of the day and the oft-repeated claim that our press was objective was nothing but ludicrous. " In the view of Raymond Louw, editor of the new defunct rand daily *Mail*, the most liberal paper of its day : "The government of the National Party decided to disinform the public as part of its total onslaught campaign and used every conceivable means to defeat its enemies. What we need to know now is precisely what those means were.

" Last year, a few journalists of the written press spontaneously admitted working as "informers" for the security forces. However a special commission set up by the SABC broadcasting corporation to hear confessions of staffers who acted as "spies" for the authorities, reported only meagre pickings.

In the profession, several journalists have expressed fears of a "witch-hunt" against a press which is still largely controlled by the white minority. Others however accuse journalists of trying to absolve themselves too easily of their past errors.

In the past few days, the debate on the need to hold special hearings before the TRC has sparked a war of words, with the English-speaking press branding the *Afrikaans* press the "official mouthpiece of the National Party" while the forum of black editors has accused the *Anglophone* press of passive complicity with the apartheid regime.

The TRC said there was a "need to bring the whole debate in the open to cleanse the past". (AFP)

Russian Soldiers Feel Betrayed After Chechnya Pullout



BUDENNOVSK, Russia — When battle-hardened Russian officers here celebrated in honor of a comrade's promotion to lieutenant colonel, the toast was simple: "Just one wish — that he gets an apartment".

The end of the war in Chechnya has only deepened the plight of the 205th motorized rifle brigade, specially created to maintain Russian rule in the separatist region and now left homeless by the decision to pull out all troops.

Hastily withdrawn over New Year, the 205th's 6,000 troops were dumped in two muddy, makeshift camps outside Budennovsk, a once quiet town in southern Russia, famous only for a bloody raid by Chechen fighters in 1995.

Many troops have not been paid for months and morale and discipline have hit rock bottom.

One camp is mostly tents set up in a field of frozen mud, the second is in a sprawling, unfinished building requisitioned by the army.

"This was not what we expected," Colonel Sergei Ivanovich said bitterly at the second camp.

"This was an active, proven brigade which has been abandoned.

The boys who defended the state's interests are now no longer wanted. Not one officer has an apartment. We'll never understand," he said.

Officers live and cook with their families in single rooms, while soldiers share rooms packed with bunks.

Security is so low that an AFP journalist was able to walk into the camp unchallenged. Drunken soldiers stood and smoked in corridors.

When the brigade first arrived in Budennovsk, residents collected to give them food and warm clothing, but the welcome chilled when soldiers sold weapons on the black market and appeared drunk in public.

Now the locals dub the brigade the "200th drunken brigade" in a Russian pun on "205th".

"We feel sorry for them, but they're a load of hooligans," said Budennovsk farmer Viktor Boichenko. "Once a drunken soldier came up to us with a handgrenade and we all ran off. Their officers have taken over the hotel and a maid there told me they left landmines around. " Kolya, a 40-year-old "kontraktnik," or short-term professional soldier, said: "We were promised everything — apartments anywhere in Russia and decent pay — and we got nothing. " But he said most soldiers were glad they no longer had to fight.

"Here we're on home ground at least. We can go out and meet people and get on with them. In Chechnya, wherever you went you didn't know if someone would shoot you in the back. " In the month since the first troops began setting up outside Budennovsk, no substantial improvements to the bare-bones base have been made.

However, in the future the Defense Ministry is supposed to build proper barracks and many officers feel they may again go into active service, patrolling the border of Chechnya as the republic slides further and further from Moscow's control. (AFP)

Mostar Evictions Leave Bosnia's New Government Powerless

MOSTAR — What they could not achieve in war, they are steadily achieving in peace: Bosnia's Croat seperatists are gradually forcing Muslims from western parts of Mostar.

On Tuesday came news of two more illegal evictions of Muslim residents, bringing to 82 the number the UN say have been thrown out by Bosnian Croat gangs.

Mostar, Bosnia's second city, was the scene of bitter fighting during the war, as Croat forces tried to push their Muslim enemies from the western parts of the city.

Barrel bombs tumbled down from the heights above the town, destroying whole buildings at a time, and artillery from the Bosnian Croat Army (HVO) destroyed most of the district they wanted to capture.

The Muslims hung on, but now, say UN relief officials, peace has brought a new tactic by the Croat seperatists.

One by one, apartments are broken into and their occupants thrown out. Martin Garrod, the former head of the European Union mission to rebuild Mostar, has blamed the evictions on Bosnian Croat gangs who operate unrestrained by local Croat police.

Last weekend, a 60-year-old Muslim woman, Munezha Dadic came home to find a Croat family had broken into her home, changed the locks and moved in, said the UN. And UN police in the town say a 72-year-old Muslim man called them to plead to be evacuated after persistent death threats.

Not all Muslims get out so easily. On December 24 a 71-year-old Moslem handicapped woman was dragged from her apartment and left in an abandoned building. Her decomposing body was found two weeks later by UN police, alerted by the woman's anxious daughter.

Week by week the evictions continue, but have led to no action by the raft of international organizations tasked with supervising bosnia's reunification.

"It's true and an understatement that I'm getting tired of condemning these things," said Colum Murphy, spokesman for the senior international mediator in Bosnia, high representative Carl Bildt.

Three layers of government could theoretically act: there is the local government, elected last June under European Union supervision, plus the federation of Croats and Muslims, and finally national government, who's multi-ethnic council of ministers began work last year. Each body remains divided along ethnic lines. None has acted on Mostar.

The international community is similarly divided. The NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) has threatened "unspecified military consequences" if HVO soldiers take part in the evictions. The UN police say the HVO are involved. SFOR has yet to act.

Some Sarajevo diplomats say Bosnia's hard-line Croat, Muslim and Serb leaderships pay only lip-service to the new joint institutions, with the country in reality still divided between them.

Bildt's officials deny this, saying peace takes time. "As to whether they (the new governing authorities) are a paper tiger, a lot of the things we are doing go from being paper, as with the institutions, to actually coming into being and doing some good for this country," said Murphy. (AFP)



Lebed Says He Will Become President "Sooner or Later"

NEW YORK — Russian presidential hopeful Alexander Lebed said he expects to win the top post "sooner or later" and that he expects the toughest opposition from Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov.

"My main rival would be the mayor of Moscow if elections take place," he said in a news conference at UN headquarters.

"There might be exotic figures like (ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir) Zhirinovsky or (leading Liberal Grigory) Yavlinsky, but (they) are not serious. " He added, "I am doing party building. I know where I am going. I know that sooner or later I will reach the place of destination. " Lebed, who attended U.S. President Bill Clinton's inauguration after being invited by a senior U.S. senator, said he had good discussions with New York business leaders, whom he declined to identify but who he said are interested in Russia.

In response to a question, he said he did not consider Russia a superpower because "if you are sitting in a muddy pond, the first rule is not to make noises about how great you are. " He also said that Russia would not participate "in any aggressive war" or send troops to a "another's land. "

Asked by a Japanese reporter how he would handle the disputed Kuril islands, seized at the end of World War II, Lebed offered a tongue-in-cheek response.

The Japanese, "no matter what continent you meet them on, start with the (Kuril) islands," he quipped. "Russia is a huge market. You should really be in a hurry to be there and as a consolation you'll get four islands. " Lebed placed third, behind President Boris Yeltsin's main rival, Communist Gennady Zyuganov, in the first round of Russian elections held last year.

Lebed later joined Yeltsin in a coalition that helped the Russian leader win victory in the Russian election and was given the influential post of national security chief.

But Yeltsin fired him in October, charging that the former Afghan war veteran was using his position to build up support for a future presidential bid.

Lebed called Yeltsin's illness a "national tragedy" and wished him a speedy recovery. But he maintained that Russia needed swift action to prevent a "social explosion. " "We have no time," he said. "Drastic measures are necessary" for Russia. (AFP)

Gold Keeps Its Glitter for Vietnam

HANOI — Gold prices may be sagging elsewhere, but in Vietnam increasing affluence is pushing demand for the coveted metal to new heights with dealers unable to predict when it will stop.

"Whatever may change, gold is the thing that will hold its value most safely. Things can change but gold never changes its value," says Tran Van Quy, director of one of Hanoi's top gold companies, Kim Quy.

Around 16.7 tons of gold were imported into Vietnam in 1996 under government quotas, according to an official from the state-owned Vietnam National Gold, Silver and Gemstone Corporation.

But the true figure could be twice that amount, he admitted. Smuggling from neighboring countries is widespread.

Either figure is a far cry from the one ton imported in 1987, just after Vietnam launched economic reforms, but the Vietnamese have traditionally sought gold as a means of protecting their savings.

"People are using more and more gold because living standards are improving," says Quy, who expects demand to grow for a considerable time yet.

Demand is particularly strong now with the Tet lunar new year festival approaching, as accounts are traditionally settled around this time — and savings cashed in.

In neighboring countries, however, demand for the commodity has been sagging.

According to the World Gold Council, sales in the world's 10 most important markets declined four percent in the third quarter of 1996 year-on-year, with a slump in Asian demand the root cause.

But in Vietnam even houses are bought and sold in gold, quoting the de facto standard set by a company in Ho Chi Minh City, the Saigon Jewelry Company — often abbreviated to SJC.

'360 taels of SJC' is a typical asking price for property in Hanoi, while other goods such as motorbikes are also bought and sold in gold. Farmers even bury it in the ground against a rainy day.

Perhaps not surprisingly, gold prices in Vietnam are nearly 8.5 percent higher than on the international gold markets, where prices have slumped to around $352 an ounce.

In Vietnam, they are currently around $390 per ounce, although prices are generally quoted as in China using the tael — equivalent to around 1.2 ounces (33 grams). This measure is now outdated on international markets.

"International gold prices have very little effect on the gold market in Vietnam," says Quy.

Around half the gold bought is just for jewelry, but about half is just for savings, he says.

In a country which has been the scene of major wars with Japan, France and United States in its recent history, people are keen to ensure their savings will last, says Quy.

Although inflation in 1996 dropped to a mere 4.5 percent, Vietnamese have vivid memories of hyperinflation in the late 1980s, when prices went up several hundred percent annually.

In another part of Hanoi, another major gold dealer Bao Tin Minh Chau sells from a shop front which is normally packed.

Director Vu Minh Chau feels it is impossible to say when demand will flatten out. With Tet coming in early February, demand at the moment is up anything from 20 to 50 percent.

Fears that the national currency, the dong, might be devalued led last November to a small rush on the yellow metal, although the rumors were later denied by the government, says Chau.

Fingering a one-kilogram (2.2 pound) bar of 24-carat gold about six inches long, the same type as some Vietnamese keep stashed away in a secret drawer, Chau stresses that this purest form of gold is what Vietnamese are most keen to buy.

Most of Vietnam's imported gold is bought from Switzerland and Australia, says Chau. Around 35 percent of the country's demand is met from mining within Vietnam. Gold, mostly alluvial, is found in many parts of the country.

His office is adorned with modern weighing, measuring and surveillance equipment on which Chau estimates he has spent "several hundred thousand dollars." He also employs his own goldsmiths to make the jewelry his customers are so keen to buy.

And as long as vietnam's economy keeps growing, says Chau, so will the lure of gold.

(AFP)

"Whatever may change, gold is the thing that will hold its value most safely. Things can change but gold never changes its value."

In a country which has been the scene of major wars with Japan, France and United States in its recent history, people are keen to ensure their savings will last.

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Ceramic Strip-Line Filters: Essential for Mobile Communications

Mobile digital communication systems are meeting with ever greater acceptance. Whether in DECT cordless telephones, GSM mobile phones, the new PCN instruments (DCS 1800) in Europe, or the Personal Communication System (PCS 1900) in North America, competition is driving the miniaturization of the ceramic strip-line filters essential to all of these devices.

In order to ensure undisturbed, error-free transmission, mobile telephones require radio-frequency filters which, among other things, suppress adjacent bands. They also require local oscillators, image frequencies, and frequencies produced by mixing. A solution is provided by microwave ceramic filters. Until recently, these filters were assembled using a complex and expensive packaging technology. Thanks in large part to intense competition, simpler and more economical filters have now become available.

Until recently, these filters were assembled using a complex and expensive packaging technology.

Strip-Line Filter Made of Microwave Ceramics

Siemens Matsushita Components began developing new strip-line filters in 1995, and was able to commence production in 1996 (Figure 1). Characterized by a high dielectric constant microwave ceramic (e.g. neodymium titanate), these filters have two or more internal holes and are metallized apart from the end surface and the webs around the coupling surfaces. The metallization consists for the most part of an electroplated 20-μm thick copper coating with a 5 to 10 μm thick tin layer on the surface — for passivation of the copper layer and to guarantee outstanding solderability.

The interior of the filters determines their characteristics. Steps in impedance between the inner conductor segments are produced by stepping the inner conductors. The inner conductors are excited to oscillation by means of capacitive coupling, with the frequency largely determined by the length of the short-circuited 1/4 line. By suitable coupling these quasi-TEM modes (Transverse Electromagnetic Mode) with the rectangular waveguide modes capable of propagating at higher frequencies, harmonic waves can be shifted in such a way as to suppress spurious modes that develop in the circuit.

The application-specific passband characteristic of the filters is set by the geometry of the impedance steps. For this purpose the necessary common-mode and differential-mode wave impedances, and thus the coupling of the line segments that determine the dimensions of the line cross sections, are calculated in the first step (Figure 2). In the second step the capacitive coupling of the resonators is defined in such a way that the filter is matched to 50 W. Figure 3 shows the filter characteristics of a DECT filter with an insertion loss of 0.5 dB with simultaneous image-frequency rejection of over 45 dB. Four of these filters are included in the new Gigaset® cordless telephone from Siemens Private Communication Systems group.

Difficult Production

Line geometries can create a catch-22 situation in which, in order to obtain optimum filter characteristics, the two line segments must be offset relative to each other in such a way that performance is diminished. To avoid this, the internal holes of the ceramic bodies must not be pressed with continuous pins (Figure 4). But the manufacture of such a ceramic body in a sequence that includes pressing the fine granules, sintering the compressed block, and metallization of the ceramic body is accordingly difficult. In collaboration with manufacturers of press tools, a process was therefore developed in which the inner conductors can be produced by pins moving laterally in relation to one another (Figure 5).

As these structures become smaller, they will be produced in a planar form by an etching technique or by the silk-screen printing process, i.e. the impedance steps will be calculated and produced using classical strip-line technology. The advantage of such filters is that, thanks to the use of high dielectric constant ceramic, for instance, three-pole mobile telephone filters that are now typically $16x14x4mm^3$ (package filter) can be reduced to $6x4x2\ mm^3$ within three years. In short, their volume and weight will fall by more than 90%. Three-pole filters for PCN (DCS 1800) or PCS achieve up to 20 dB suppression of the adjacent duplex band.

Siemens Matsushita began developing new stripline filters in 1995, and was able to commence production in 1996.

Expanding the Product Range

Band-pass filters and highly selective band-stop, high-pass and low-pass filters produced using these new techniques for strip-line filters will make it possible to expand the product range. Furthermore, considering the trend toward new frequencies and applications, such as Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs) in the range of 2.45 or 5.8 GHz, microwave ceramic filters can be expected to shrink even further.

(Courtesy Siemens Review)

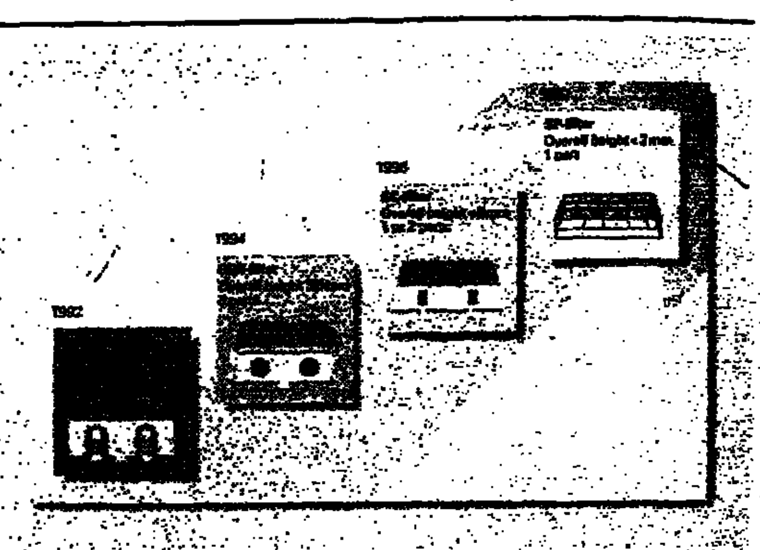


Figure 1: In 1995 Siemens Matsushita Components began developing new strip-line filters made of high dielectric constant microwave ceramic (e.g. neodymium titanate). Production commenced in 1996.

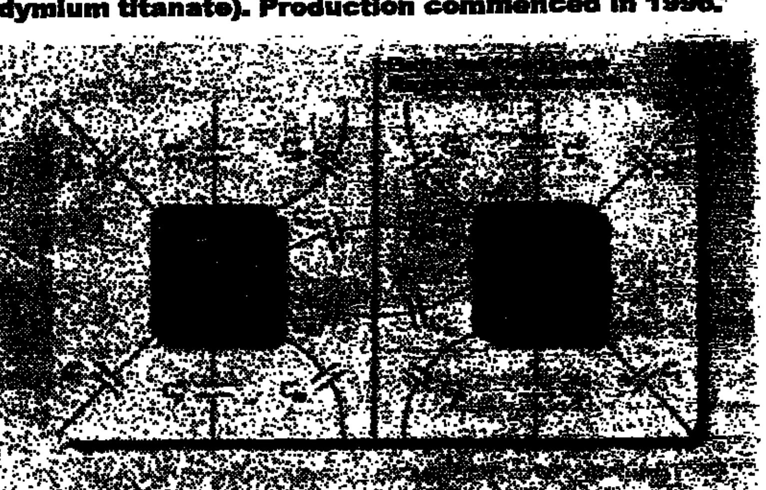


Figure 2: The passband characteristics of strip-line filters is set by the geometry of the impedance steps. The dimensions of the line cross sections result from the coupling of the line segments — requiring calculation of the common-mode and differential-mode wave impedances. The capacitive coupling of the resonators is defined in such a way that the filter is matched to 50 W.

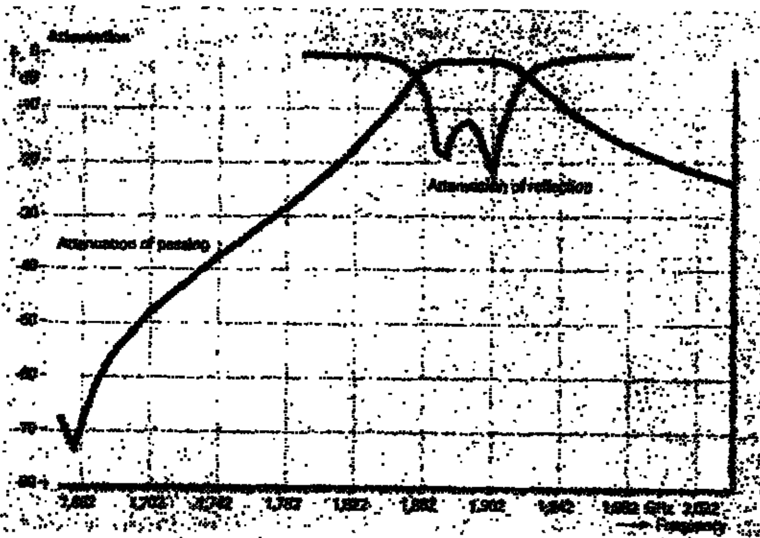


Figure 3: Filter characteristics of a DECT filter with 0.5 B insertion loss and over 45 dB image-frequency rejection.



Figure 4: In order to obtain optimum filter characteristics, it may be necessary to offset the line segments relative to each other in such a way that results are somewhat degraded. The internal holes of the ceramic bodies can therefore not be pressed with continuous pins.

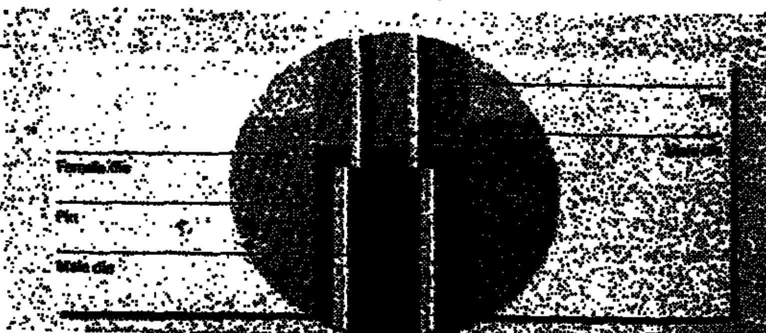
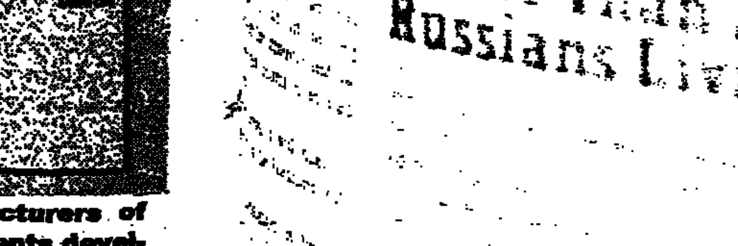
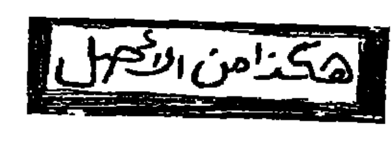


Figure 5: In collaboration with manufacturers of press tools, Siemens Matsushita Components developed a process in which the inner conductors of strip-line filters are produced by pins moving laterally in relation to one another.





UN Appeals for Aid for Afghanistan



ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan — United Nations officials appealed for increased aid to Afghanistan, where 17 years of occupation and civil war have cast millions into extreme poverty.

There is no end in sight to the misery of the people of Afghanistan, Yasushi Akashi, UN under secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said as he opened a two-day international forum on aid to Afghanistan in the capital of the former Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan.

The UN-sponsored forum, attended by 250 delegates from donor states, UN agencies and private aid groups, will discuss a strategy to help Afghanistan, which was impoverished by 10 years of Soviet occupation and then by civil war.

More than a million lives have been lost. Virtually every national institution of government and infrastructure has been destroyed, Akashi said.

Norbert Holl, head of the United Nations special mission to Afghanistan, said a bloody power struggle had brought more havoc and death to Afghanistan than during the entire 10 years of foreign occupation.

But aid to Afghanistan had been falling each year because the international community was fed up with the fighting.

By the middle of last year, the Afghan conflict was already in serious danger of becoming one of the forgotten conflicts of the world, Holl said.

Akashi said last December he was appealing for $133 million in aid for Afghanistan over the next year.

The response has been disappointing, only about one percent of the requested sum. I hope the donor community will be in a position to provide increased support this year, he said.

Akashi said helping Afghanistan could boost security in the region.

The proliferation of arms and drugs is gnawing at the social, political and economic fabric of an age-old region where frontiers are porous, and where both ill-will and goodwill travel freely, he said.

But it remained unclear whether international donors would respond to Akashi's appeal to boost assistance to Afghanistan after inter-Afghan fighting has become even more fierce.

The Taleban militia, which captured Kabul in September, made major gains last week, taking the Soviet-built military air base of Bagram and the town of Charikar.

It launched its offensive against forces loyal to former government commander Ahmad Shah Masood and northern General Abdul Rahid Dostum less than 24 hours after UN-brokered peace talks in Islamabad ended after three days without result.

I have just learned about over 50,000 newly displaced people arriving in Kabul over the past three weeks, including over 15,000 this weekend, said Gerald Waltzer, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees.

He called Afghanistan the largest single refugee caseload in the world and said 2.5 million Afghan refugees were still living in neighboring states. *(AFP)*

With Nothing Left to Lose, Bulgarians Fight for a Future

SOFIA, Bulgaria — No job. No prospects. Four children to feed. "I don't know what to do," says Georgi Assenov.

Despair has finally awakened Bulgarians, who for six years have suffered an economic slide to deprivation. Now they appear determined to do away with the vestiges of communism.

Like other former Soviet satellites, Bulgarians threw out their hardline communist rulers in 1989. But here, the former communists never made a clean break with the past, and many Bulgarians felt comfortable enough to keep voting for them. They dominated five of seven post-1989 governments.

That has started to change. At one of the daily rallies aimed at forcing the socialists -- the former communists -- from power, tens of thousands of people cheerfully bob up and down to warm themselves in the cold.

Assenov, who was laid off two years ago from his job at a steel mill, is among Bulgaria's 675,000 unemployed, or 12.5 percent.

Those who have work are not much better off: average monthly wages have plunged from the equivalent of $100 to $20 in the last two years of socialist rule.

On Sunday, opposition figure Petar Stoyanov was sworn in as Bulgaria's new president. Stoyanov has urged the socialists and the opposition union of democratic forces -- which is trying to force the ruling party out with the help of daily street protests -- to work together to solve the crisis.

"I put great hope in these rallies," says Assenov, who tries to earn money for bread by selling sunflower seeds to the demonstrators.

"I would bring my children here and stay day and night for months so that something changes and we can give our children a future. We want to have jobs, to be free," says Assenov, 30, whose wife also is unemployed.

She rises at 4:30 a.m. to collect paper from garbage bins and sell it for reprocessing. On a good day he earns 700 leva ($1), enough for two loaves of bread. Fees for rent, heat and electricity for the one-room apartment, where his four children share one bed, go unpaid.

"I live for my children," says Assenov. "I can't feed my family. I can't steal and lie like the communists, and I can't live like this."

The socialists won 1994 elections on promises of frozen prices, economic reform and a stable future. Instead, they dithered over privatization of state enterprises idled by a lack of funds, failed to control rampant organized crime and stand accused of masterminding shady financial dealings through which they and their cronies got rich.

In the meantime, they have driven the country to the brink of financial collapse. It must repay $1.3 billion of its $10 billion foreign debt this year, but has less than $600 million in foreign reserves.

The value of the lev currency has fallen tenfold over the past year. Inflation topped 300 percent in 1996, and has kept climbing in the first weeks of this year.

Politically, the socialists' biggest mistake may have been to rely too much on Bulgarians' historical endurance and patience in the face of hardship. On Jan. 10, protesters surrounded Parliament and wouldn't let the socialist deputies out. Police finally cleared a path by beating demonstrators, injuring up to 200.

But the people have not backed down.

"People have woken up. The misery can't be endured anymore," says Stefanka Nikolova, mother of a 6-year-old. She earns $13 a month -- "the price of my son's jacket." Unlike thousands of Bulgarians who have sought opportunity elsewhere, many in the new generation say they want to remain in Bulgaria.

"We love our country," says 19-year-old Naiden Lilov, one of thousands of students nationwide who have spurred the protests.

Asked why his parents' generation didn't seek change sooner, he said, "They're different in their thinking. They lived 50 years under communists. They have some damage."

Now that the nation has started to move, it may be hard to stop, says Simeon "Sam" Bukov, who moved to Long Beach, California, 20 years ago and recently returned.

"Bulgarians are slow-motion people," he says. "But when they start doing something, they know it's right." *(AP)*

Nearly 22,000 Burundi Refugees Flee to Tanzania

GENEVA — Nearly 22,000 Burundian refugees have fled their violence-hit country for neighboring Tanzania so far this month and the pace of their exodus is picking up, the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said.

Spokeswoman Pamela o'Toole told a briefing that the refugees, fleeing fighting in southwest Burundi, joined some 36,000 who fled to Tanzania in December and 98,000 in November.

Some 60,000 Burundian Hutus were forced out of east Zaire by an ethnic Tutsi rebellion and the UN human rights office says hundreds of returnees were killed by Burundi's Army, dominated by minority Tutsis and in power since a military coup in June.

In the latest reported massacre earlier this month, Burundi troops killed 126 Hutu returnees expelled from Tanzania, prompting a UNHCR appeal to Tanzania to halt the deportations.

Some 150,000 people have died in the tiny Central African country in a three-year war between the army and Hutu rebels. *(Reuter)*

Abandoned Russian Refugees From Chechnya Scorn Elections

TISHENSKOYE, Russia — The upcoming elections in Chechnya are meant to be a new start for the war-shattered republic, but for homeless ethnic-Russian refugees there is little to hope for.

Tatyana Ivanovna, who fled the Chechen capital Grozny in 1995 early in the 21-month war, said ethnic-Russian refugees had been forgotten by Moscow and were not welcome back in Chechnya.

"We've been thrown away like cats in the street," the 39-year-old former teacher said at a refugee center in Tishenskoye, a village outside the southern Russian city of Stavropol.

Almost no ethnic-Russian refugees will be taking part in the Chechen elections: the Chechens have refused to set up polling booths outside the republic and the refugees are too scared to go back to Chechnya.

Whoever wins, it will make little difference to the Russians, refugees say.

All the candidates in the election stand for Chechen independence and the atmosphere since the last Russian troops left has become increasingly hostile for the ethnic-Russian minority.

Several Russians have been murdered in Grozny in the last few months and any who can afford it are fleeing.

"They're just leaving and leaving," said Georgy Nikolayev, director of the Federal Migration Service in Stavropol, which deals with refugees both from Chechnya and other war zones of the former Soviet Union.

"These elections are a joke. People openly say that Russians have no business there. Even if they came here and asked me to vote, I wouldn't," Ivanovna said in the cupboard-like room she shares with her seven-year-old son.

Asked if she would ever try to return to Grozny after the elections, Ivanovna said, "Chechens have taken over my old house. I wouldn't dare show my face." "What good would it do for us to vote?" said Alexandrova Shepilova, 82, also living at the refugee center with about 40 other mostly elderly people. "They don't want us." The refugees' bitterness is part of a general backlash in southern Russia against what is seen as Moscow's capitulation to the Chechen separatists and the failure to protect Russian interests.

Even before the war began in December 1994, an estimated 200,000 people left Chechnya, most of them believed to be Russians fleeing the chaos and anti-Russian violence in the separatist republic.



Cossacks -- descendants of the original Russian colonizers of the Caucasus in the 18th and 19th centuries -- are becoming increasingly militant.

In the last week, Cossack leaders have demanded the incorporation of parts of northern Chechnya, where a large proportion of the population is Russian, into the Stavropol region.

They have also demanded the formation of Cossack units to be backed by artillery and air power to defend southern Russia from what they say will be inevitable Chechen raids.

At a recent meeting with Cossack leaders, a leading member of the Russian Security Council, Boris Berezovsky, supported the demand for arming Cossacks.

"The Chechens want to spread their trouble-making to the whole north Caucasus and I think they'll try," Valentina Ivanovna, director of the Tishenskoye Refugee Center, said. "We don't think Moscow will protect us. We've lost our faith. No one is protected." *(AFP)*

More Than 25 Percent of Russians Living in Poverty

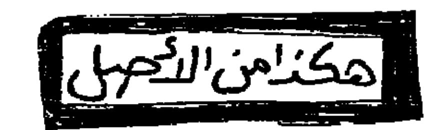
MOSCOW — More than 25 percent of all Russians are living in poverty, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported, citing an expert.

Vyacheslav Bobkov, director of the All-Russia Living Standards Center said that this meant they had incomes of less than 320,000 rubles ($57) a month.

Bobkov said that at least 11 percent of the population lived in extreme poverty earning less than 219,000 rubles ($39) while about 50 percent were low-income earning between 320,000 ($57) and 650,000 rubles ($116) per person.

At the top end of the scale were the "rich" who make up eight percent of the population with monthly incomes exceeding 1,900,000 rubles ($339) per person.

The remainder of the population with monthly incomes of between 650,000 and 1,900,000 falls into the well-to-do category that Bobkov described as Russia's "middle class". *(AFP)*



TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE

Part 3

The second aspect we have alluded to before, concerns the relationship between knowledge and power and the impact of this on interpretations of technology and culture. Throughout history, knowledge has generally remained closely linked with interests. Even when encyclopedias, for instance, have traditionally sold themselves on the Francis Bacon principle that "Knowledge Is Power," they too have continued to reflect an undeclared, equally influential, political principle - that "Power Is Knowledge."

The intrusion of Europeans into non-European societies and the gradual establishing of political dominance and inequality between societies stimulated the inauguration of a wholly new discourse about such societies. Political dominance came to be as routinely and unabashedly expressed in the form of knowledge as it was through the barrel of guns. Edward Said has already written controversially on the invention of the discourse on "orientalism" and its direct political uses. But there are less controversial discourses that have had even larger repercussions, only now being acknowledged.

As a result, much academic knowledge in circulation in the Western world about the non-Western world, particularly the latter's technology traditions, remains not only distorted or contaminated by the ethnic concerns, goals, theories, obsessions, and peculiar assumptions of Western scholars and universities, it is still largely defined, legitimized and decided by them irrespective of whether there is any concurrence from the non-Western world.

The combination of these two aspects proved deadly: The emerging conception of Western man alone as *homo faber*, once it took firm roots within the situation of political dominance, rendered any notice or appreciation of technique elsewhere - technique not necessarily reflected only in tools or machines - difficult and often impossible: in fact, the combination helped inaugurate its very own dark age. For it generated among Western (and not a few non-Western) scholars several major assumptions or postulates concerning technology and culture. We shall discuss three of these because of their importance.

Assumptions of Uniqueness

The first of these assumptions emerged in relation to Western man's attitude towards the past, particularly with regard to pre-industrial technology. *Homo faber* exercised his new found power over the past by deriding it. This is reflected in the rewriting of history from today's perspective in which the past is seen as mere prelude to the present. Earlier technological innovations are considered as primitive precursors of later developments.

Here we have a good exhibition of the relatively simple and uncomplicated parochialism of the modern/Western mind as it proceeds to take experiences to technology and culture exclusive not just to the late 20th century but to extremely small segments of the world population and makes these the basis for investigating, analyzing, assessing and judging the general activities of human societies over hundreds of years of civilization; even when such societies were not so technologically enamored, dependent or controlled as some of them seem to be now.

The second assumption relates to humankind's so-called unique propensities for technology when compared with that of the animal world, an uncritical theory best summed up in single world: *speciesism*. After deciding on the issue of the comparative technological competence of all living species in its own favor, the West came to the foregone conclusion that the rest of creation, being inferior, was expendable if so required to further its own scheme of things.

But it is the third assumption that concerns us most seriously here. It is the idea that Western man can be equally distinguished from non-Western societies as well on the ground that the latter, like the animal and other "lower" species, also lacked technological development as it emerged in the West.

This idea was appropriately reflected in the sphere of academia in the emergence of two brand new sciences: the discipline of sociology which focused on so-called advanced societies and their congenital flair for technology; and the subject of anthropology which occupied itself with non-Western cultures, limited to primitive or pre-industrial tools.

(To be contd)

Archeological Find Could Contain Piece of Christ's Cross

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — A small bronze cross discovered by Israeli archeologists could contain a piece of Jesus Christ's cross, Israeli public television said Tuesday.

However, the claim was immediately disputed by archeologists.

The piece of wood shown to the public set in a small bronze cross, was found during an excavation in Bait-ul-Moqaddas and dates from the beginning of the Byzantine Era here, around the fourth century A.D. , the television said.

The discovery was made during construction of a parking lot in front of the Jaffa gate at the entrance to Bait-ul-Moqaddas old city.

But a spokeswoman for the department of antiquities, which supervised the dig, said: "There is nothing to indicate that this object contains pieces of the true cross" on which Jesus was crucified.

Ronie Reich, the archeologist in charge of excavations at the site, told AFP that the remains of a hospice for Christian pilgrims had been uncovered during the digging which started in 1989.

"We are talking about a vast complex of more than 20,000 square meters which will be preserved. It contains the remains of shops, roads and different buildings used by the pilgrims," he added.

"We have uncovered many small crosses which were made at the time as souvenir objects. The hypothesis that this particular cross contains pieces from the real cross is not serious," he said.

Last year a tomb bearing the inscription *"Jesus Son of Joseph,"* a common name in the Roman Era here, was found in Bait-ul-Moqaddas provoked much speculation.

(AFP)

China Opens First Private Museum in Beijing

BEIJING — China, which once destroyed huge numbers of classic artworks to try to erase its imperial past, has opened its first private museum displaying such treasures, the Xinhua News Agency said.

The Guanfu Classic Art Museum opened in Beijing on Saturday and was holding an exhibition of porcelain from the Ming and Qing dynasties, Xinhua said.

Ma Weidu, a 42-year-old former publishing house editor, had opened the museum based on his private collection of more than 1,000 cultural relics, the agency said.

It is a symbol of social advancement and stability for the Chinese government to allow individuals to set up a private museum, it quoted Ma as saying.

Countless works of art were destroyed during China's chaotic 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, when chairman Mao Zedong ordered fanatical red guards to wipe out traditional feudal culture.

China had allowed individuals to run museums in certain places and Beijing had registered four such museums in the past few years, Xinhua quoted officials the Beijing Cultural Relics Bureau as saying.

(Reuter)

Dudley Moore Hiding Out Somewhere in England

LONDON — Dudley Moore isn't lost between the Moon and New York City — he's somewhere in England hiding out from wife and paparazzi, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

The diminutive actor, comedian and concert pianist failed to return home to Newport Beach, Calif. in December after a worldwide concert tour.

"He's fine, he just wants rest and solitude," his biographer Barbra Paskin told *The Mail* on Sunday.

"He's tired of all the hounding he's been getting," she was quoted as saying. Moore was somewhere in England, she said, recuperating before a U.S. concert tour is due to start in March.

The British-born Moore was nominated for an Oscar for his portrayal of a lovable drunk in the 1981 film, *"Arthur."*

(AP)

Supplication of Kumayal

(11)

My Protector, so how should he remain
in the chastisement while he has hope
for Your previous clemency?
Or how should the Fire cause him pain
while he expects Your Bounty and Mercy?
Or how should its flames burn him
while You hear his voice and see his place?
Or how should
its groaning encompass him
while You know his weakness?
Or how should he be convulsed among its levels
while You know his sincerity?
Or how should its keepers torture him
while he calls out to You, "O Lord?"
Or how should he have hope of Your Bounty
in freeing him from it
while You abandon him within it?
Far be it from You!
That is not what is expected of You,
nor what is well-known of Your Bounty;
nor is it similar to the goodness and kindness
You have shown to those who profess
Your Oneness.

James Dickey, Author of "Deliverance," Dead at 73

COLUMBIA, South Carolina — James Dickey, poet and author whose works included the novels *"Deliverance"* and *"To the White Sea,"* has died at age 73.

Dickey, who had been hospitalized since Wednesday, died Sunday night of complications from lung disease, said Pat Browder, nursing supervisor at Providence Hospital.

Dickey was most well known for *"Deliverance,"* about a group of men who plan an excursion to the Georgia wilderness and end up fighting for their lives. The 1970 book received the French Prix Medicis in 1971 and in 1972 was made into an academy award-nominated movie.

His next novel, the little-noticed *"Alnilam,"* was in 1987.

"To the White Sea," about a tail gunner shot down over Japan in the final days of World War II, was published in 1993.

Dickey said he only wrote novels to pay the bills. His first love was poetry. His collection of poems *"Buckdancer's Choice"* won the 1966 national book award for poetry.

His writing often dealt with man and nature. Dickey said people long to cast off their modern frustrations in exchange for a more primitive life that has "more of the truth in it." "I like the whole sense of reversion of the domestic animal to the wild state," he said during a 1994 interview.

Dickey said he got the idea for *"Deliverance"* while living in an Italian village.

"I saw a figure standing at the edge of a cliff," he said.

"And I thought: 'Who is it? What is he doing there? Did he come from the woods, inland... Or did he come up it? Why would he do that?' It all began to come together. Then I put a river down there. That's the way it was started." Dickey was born in Atlanta and raised primarily by his grandmother, a German-born woman, because his mother was an invalid. He spent much time with his father, whose family was from the Appalachian Mountains and who loved to travel to northeast Georgia whenever possible.

He married after World War II and had two sons with his first wife of 30 years, Maxine. She died in 1976. Dickey remarried and had a daughter, but his second marriage was rockier, with several separations.

He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the early 1940s, then again in the '50s, and became a first lieutenant.

"I'm essentially a creature of the military, not that I was all that great a success at it," he said. "It formed a lot of my values. The main one is survival." Near the end of World War II, Dickey received an anthology of poetry during a stint in Okinawa, a place he later described as "bloody and terrible stone: sea stone, coral." It was a poem by Joseph Trumbull Stickney, with the lines "Thou art divine, thou livest, - as of old Apollo springing naked to the light, and all his island shivered into flowers," that struck Dickey as he looked out over the crosses in a new military graveyard.

"I looked at the graves and I thought of Stickney's lines and instantaneously believed that if the right wind were to blow, the graves would turn into flowers, would shiver into flowers," Dickey said in a 1995 commencement speech at the University of South Carolina.

He began writing poetry after the war, and one of his first poems was about construction of the soldiers' cemetery.

Dickey earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Vanderbilt University and taught English at Rice University from 1952-54. He studied in Europe under Sewanee review and Guggenheim fellowships.

He became the University of South Carolina's poet-in-residence in 1968.

"One of (my father's) main vocations, or avocations, was cock fighting," Dickey said. "He was delighted when I affiliated myself with a school whose mascot is a fighting gamecock." In 1986, Dickey underwent surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain. In late 1994, he had two brief hospital stays for jaundice and related problems.

Despite the recognition he received for his novels, Dickey said he wanted to be remembered for his more than 20 collections of poetry.

"Poetry is the center of the creative wheel," he said.

"Somebody asked me once what my favorite poem of mine was. And I say that's like being asked which of your children is your favorite - you do have one, but you ain't sayin'." Survivors include his wife, Deborah; their daughter Bronwen; and sons Christopher, a *Newsweek Magazine* correspondent, and Kevin.

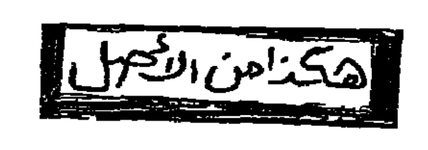
(AP)

Daily Food for Thought

On Action

Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet and blossom in the dust.

JAMES SHIRLEY
Contention of Ajax and Ulysses

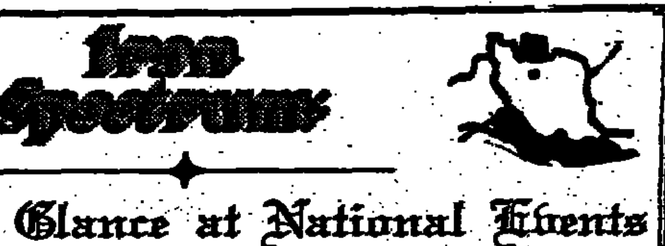


International Spectrum
A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue
THU., JAN. 23; BAHMAN 4, 1375; RAMAZAN 13, 1417

Iran Spectrum
A Glance at National Events



The World This Week

World News

Wednesday, January 15

Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Condemn Al-Khalil Accord



Syria, Lebanon and the Islamic Republic of Iran slammed the accord on the West Bank town of Al-Khalil.

Mandela Attacks U.S.

President Nelson Mandela lashed out at U.S. criticism of South Africa's proposed arms sale to Syria and hinted that the $641 million deal could go ahead no matter what Washington says.

Afghan Peace Plans Rejected by Taleban



Talks in Pakistan aimed at establishing peace in Afghanistan have broken up without progress because the Taleban militia rejected demands made by its opponents, Taleban Information and Culture Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said.

France Issues New Warning to Belgrade

France issued a new warning to Belgrade of "serious consequences" if it does not recognize opposition election victories, one day after ballots were conceded in Serbia's capital and second city.

Thursday, January 16

Bulgarian Unrest Continues



Bulgaria faces a 12th day of unrest with government and opposition calling for talks to break a political and economic impasse but still far apart on details

Peru Rebels Say No More Hostage Releases for Now



Peruvian rebels holding 74 hostages at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima ruled out any imminent release of more captives.

Friday, January 17

Army Closes Al-Khalil Market After Clashes

The Israeli Army closed the Al-Khalil market after Palestinians and troops clashed in the area near Al-Khalil's Jewish enclave on the first day of Palestinian rule in most of the flashpoint West Bank city.

Thousand Evacuate as Volcanic Alert Declared in Indonesia



Thousands of people have been evacuated in the Indonesian province of central Java after authorities placed the Merapi Volcano on the highest-level alert, officials said.

Iraqi Kurd Leader Pledges to Disarm Kurds

Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talebani said that he would disarm separatist Turkish Kurds staying in two camps in the area under his control in northern Iraq.

More than 60 Die in Zaire Fighting

Zairean Army units and rebel guerrillas have clashed in the region of Lubutu, in eastern Zaire, rebel leader Laurent-Desire Kabila said.

Saturday January 18

UN Mediator Calls For Immediate Cease-Fire in Afghanistan

The head of UN special peace mission to Afghanistan, Norbert Holl, appealed for an immediate cease-fire as the Taleban militia drove north towards the Panjshir Valley.

Students Win Another Round Against the Police

Students staging anti-government protests in Belgrade won a new round against the authorities, when the police moved off to allow them to march despite an official ban on demonstrations.

Libya Says It Will Violate UN Sanctions

After granting permission to adventurer Steve Fosset to fly over its air space, Libya said it is ready to ignore UN sanctions that bar flights to and from the country.

Sunday, January 19

Tehreek-i-Jafria, Jama'at-e Islami Condemn Lahore Blast



Pakistan's main Shiite political party denounced bomb blast outside a court in the Punjab capital of Lahore that left 26 people dead and dozens injured, calling it an act of terrorism.

Sroyanov Sworn In as Bulgaria's New President

Bulgaria's new President, Petar Stoyanov, was sworn in before Parliament and immediately urged the chamber to agree to early legislative elections in the troubled east European country.

150 Sudanese Soldiers Killed in Ambush

Sudan's armed opposition killed more than 150 government soldiers and seized nine trucks in an ambush in eastern Sudan near the key Damazin Dam, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said.

Monday, January 20

S. Korean Workers Return to Work



South Korea's striking workers returned to work temporarily, while international pressure mounted on the embattled government to back down over its controversial new labor law.

Clinton Kicks Off Inauguration Day

Inauguration day for President Bill Clinton's second term opened with an inter-faith prayer service at one of the U.S. capital's oldest churches with close links to the black community.

Tuesday, January 21

Strong Earthquakes Hit China

Two big earthquakes majoring 6.4 and 6.3 on the Richter scale hit northwest China, killing at least 6 people.

Local News

Wednesday, January 15

President Inspects Tehran's Water Treatment Plant



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inspected a water treatment complex of Tehran sewage system.

Yaqub Khan Confers With Nateq Nouri

Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahebzadeh Yaqub Khan and stressed that foreign interference would only aggravate the crisis in Afghanistan and increase tension in that war-torn country.

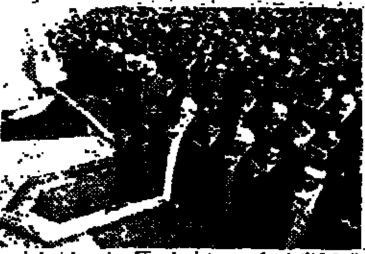
Security Prevails Over Country's Borders



Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati expressed satisfaction with the security situation which prevails over the country's borders.

Thursday, January 16

President Receives Pakistani Foreign Minister



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahebzadeh Yaqub Khan and expressed concern over the continued crisis in Afghanistan and said that Afghan crisis has no military solution.

Kharrazi: Israel's Charges Leveled to Justify Usurpation

The Zionist regime has leveled unfounded charges against the Islamic Republic of Iran to justify its usurpation of Southern Lebanon, said the Iranian permanent Representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi in a letter to the UN secretary general.

Friday, January 17

Leader: Zionist Regime's Peace Gesture, Tactical Ploy



The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, dwelt on the psychological warfare the enemies are waging against Iran through Zionist mass median and certain news agencies.

Saturday, January 18

Habibi Inspects Development, Cultural Projects in Tehran

First Vice-President Hassan Habibi inspected several ongoing development and cultural projects, including the Islamic Republic of Iran's Cultural Complex, National Library and Negarestan Cultural Center.

President Inaugurates Eight Development Projects in Tehran



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurated eight development projects in west of the capital, Tehran.

Boroujerdi: Afghan Parties to Be Invited to Tehran



Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is to host Afghan peace talks with participation of the belligerent parties of Afghanistan.

Sunday January 19

Iran Refutes Egypt's Accusations, Condemns attack on Sudan

Iran regards any efforts to divide Muslims into sects as a plot against Islamic solidarity and a bid to strengthen the positions of the Zionist regime, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said.

Velayati Describes Outcome of Tehran Peace Talks on Tajikistan



Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati described the outcome of Tehran peace talks on Tajikistan as a breakthrough in restoring peace to the republic.

Monday, January 20

President Receives Tajikistan Foreign Minister

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received visiting Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov.

During the meeting the Tajik Minister hailed the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to bring about peace in Tajikistan.

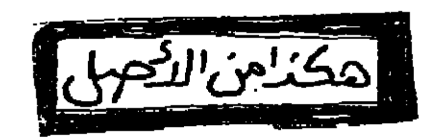
Younger Generation Should Be Acquainted With Islamic Values

Majlis Speaker, Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri stressed that if the Islamic Revolution and Islamic system want to remain safe from the blows of the enemies, the values of the revolution should be transferred to the future generations.

Tuesday, January 21

Muslim Situation in Bulgaria Discussed

Iranian Ambassador to Sofia, Golzamia and Bulgaria's grand mufti Hajji Basti Sharif discussed Muslim situation in this east European country.



The Five Biggest Benefits of Smiling

A happy face tells the world you're feeling great. But there's so much more a smile can do for you

We don't really think about smiling any more than we think about breathing. We just do it, hundreds of times a day. But lately, scientists in the growing field of psychoneuroimmunology — the study of how the mind helps heal the body — are examining this behavior more closely. And what they've found is that a broad grin can increase your well-being and bring on benefits. Among them...

1 More Respect

A grin is seen as a strong signal that you're optimistic, reliable and have leadership ability, according to a 1994 study of college students in Brazil. When researchers showed 322 Brazilian college kids slides of men and women who were either smiling or not smiling, the students gave the smilers much more positive scores on optimism, dependability, and leadership skills. They also felt the smilers were happier, calmer, smarter, more sincere, better-looking, kinder and more sympathetic than the non-smilers. And the broadest grins got the best scores of all!

2 Better Health

Smiling — along with other behaviors that make us happy and calm, such as laughter, yoga, prayer, meditation and exercise — strengthens the immune system, which helps protect us against a variety of infections and diseases. Anger, tension and anxiety increase the body's production of immune-weakening stress hormones, says Lee Berk, Ph.D., assistant professor of preventative medicine at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, who has been exploring the health effect of mirth since the 1970's. A smile or a laugh turns off those stressful hormones. And, according to Dr. Berk's latest studies, humor also increases the activity of cells that make infection-fighting antibodies and a body chemical that helps mop up virally infected cells and some cancer cells.

"The moral of the story is really ancient stuff, from Proverbs in the Old Testament," says Dr. Berk. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. A broken spirit drieth the bone."

3 Less Stress

A smile can help you keep problems — whether they're as simple and easily solved as a flat tire or as serious and complex as a loved one's illness — in perspective and even makes those difficulties seem easier to cope with, reports Rod Martin, Ph.D., a psychology professor at the University of Western Ontario. For example, when Dr. Martin tested students who were about to face a stressful event, i.e., their first college exam, those with strong senses of humor found the test far less stressful. Dr. Martin also discovered that students who smiled and laughed easily were more able to enjoy happy experiences than students who didn't have such well-developed funny bones.

'The simple act of smiling not only reveals our emotions, it also helps create and enhance them'

4 More Joy

Several researchers — beginning with Charles Darwin — have suggested that the very act of smiling can create or even intensify a happy, or positive feeling, while frowning will actually make you feel sadder. Psychologist Robert Zajonc, Ph.D., of Stanford University believes he knows why: When we smile, we activate as many as 42 muscles in our face. When those muscles are constricted, they reduce the amount of blood flowing through the sinus area to the brain. The decreased blood flow temporarily cools the brain — including the hypothalamus, which regulates our emotions. Smiling also helps cool the brain by changing our breathing patterns, which allows more air to flow through our nasal passages. And, scientists believe, the cooler the brain, the more positive our feelings and the happier we feel.

5 Less Pain

Studies done at Texas Technical Institute have suggested that when we smile, we can tolerate pain more easily. The explanation put forth is that smiling, like exercise, triggers the release of endorphins — the body's natural painkillers. Another possible explanation is offered by Clifford C. Kuhn, M.D., a professor of psychiatry at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Kentucky, (and coincidentally a stand-up comedian known locally as The Laugh Doctor). "Smiling may be a physiological form of distraction. If you're not paying attention, you don't feel the pain."

(Courtesy the First for Women)



Chocolate Brownies

You will need...	4 oz. self-raising flour
	¼ level teaspoon salt
	1½oz. cocoa
	4 oz. butter
	4 oz. soft brown sugar
Preparation time 15 minutes	2 eggs, blended
	1 tablespoon milk
	For the icing:
Cooking time 35 minutes	1½ oz. butter
	1 oz. cocoa, sieved
	3 tablespoons evaporated milk
Oven setting 375°F; gas mark 5	4 oz. icing sugar, sieved

Grease an oblong tin about 11 by 7 inches, 1-inch deep. Sieve together flour, salt and cocoa. In another bowl beat butter and sugar until light and creamy. Add eggs a little at a time, beating well after each addition. Fold sieved ingredients into mixture with milk. Mix well. Turn into prepared tin.

Bake in a moderately hot oven for about 35 minutes until center of sponge springs back when lightly pressed. Allow to cool in tin.

Melt butter for icing. Add cocoa. Cook over low heat for 1 minute. Remove from heat and add evaporated milk and icing sugar. Mix in thoroughly. Spread over cake in tin and leave to set, then cut cake into 15 squares.

QUICK TIP

Cocoa gives a strong chocolate flavor. It is essential to cook it for all recipes and to add sweetening. Chocolate poweder is already sweetened and does not require cooking in recipes; the resulting flavor is less chocolatey.

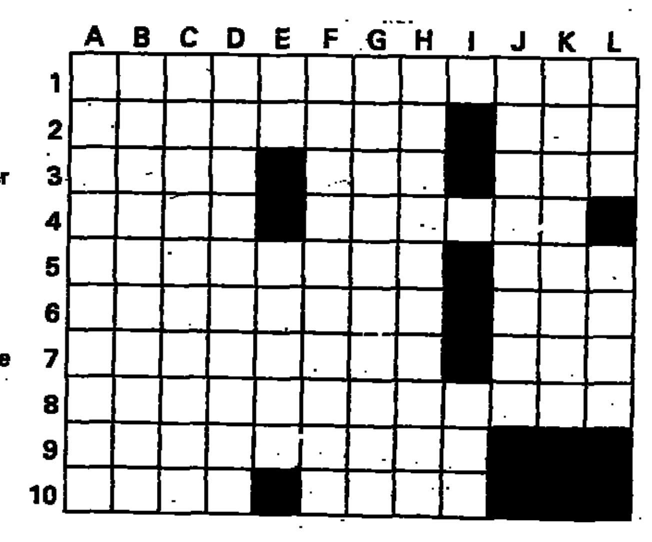


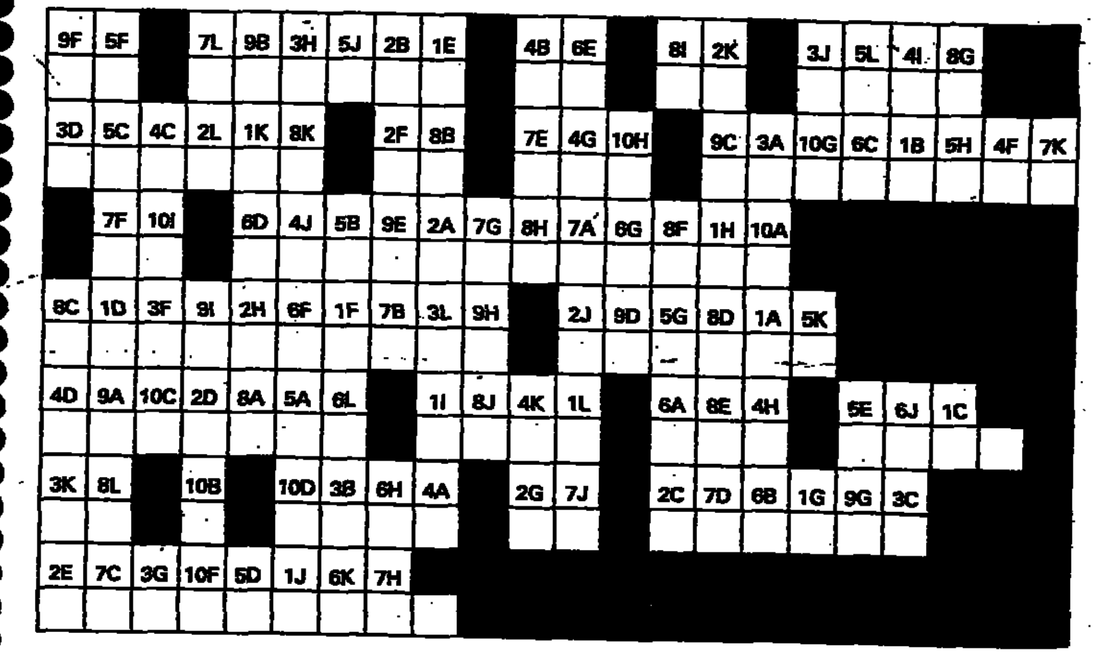
ACROSTIC

Solve the clues, entering your solutions in the corresponding rows of the top grid. When this is correctly completed, column A (reading downwards) will give the name of a statesman and philosopher. Now transfer all the letters from the top grid to the cross-referenced squares of the lower grid, and you will be able to read a quotation from one of this person's works.

CLUES

1 Legally
2 Instance or opportunity * Rabble
3 Wealthy * Floor-wiper * Fish's stabiliser
4 Mute * Dairy product
5 Wilful, obstinate * Seeing organ
6 Political murderer * Wrath
7 Dull repetitiveness * Professional charge
8 Vests and pants
9 Masterly skill
10 Dearth * Cow meat

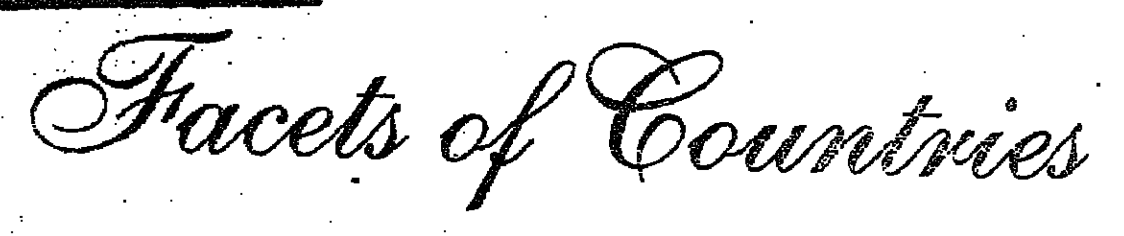




Solution next week

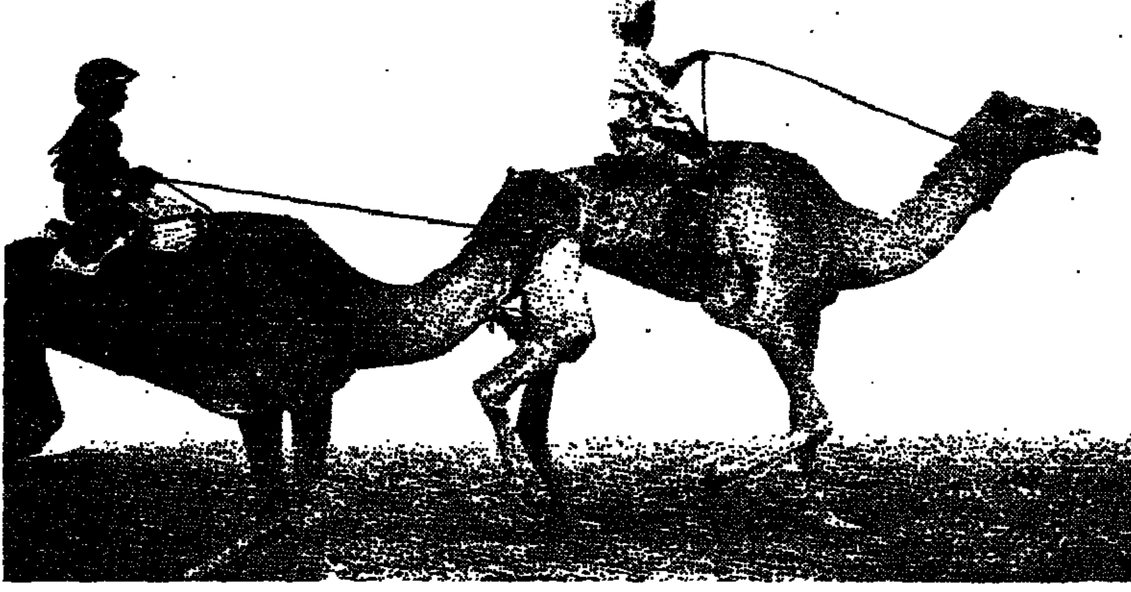


Feature



Spotlight: U.A.E. (Dubai)

The Dromedary Camels of the Desert



Young derbies getting ready for the race.

Glaysa is an elite racing camel, though you'd have a hard time guessing this. As with all camels, she has teeth like old piano keys and eyelashes as long as cat whiskers and a hide that's more upholstery than fur. She looks down her nose at you, but it's strictly anatomical, nothing personal; camel faces are built on a slope.

One way you might guess she is not ordinary is that she is currently swimming laps in a chlorinated pool. Camels in the wild don't swim much. They don't go for a dip in an oasis any more than starving men play kickball with a loaf of bread. But Glaysa has never lived in the wild.

She was born in one of Sheik Mohammed's special yards. Sheik Mohammed is short for His Highness Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, crown prince of Dubai, owner of 1500 racing camels.

Here are some of the special things in Sheik Mohammed's yard: a special camel treadmill, a special camel shower, special rock pathways that keep camel footpads in racing trim and special pillow-lined camel transport trucks. The swimming pool is also special. It's designed specifically for camels, one lane wide and 25 yards long, with gentle slopes at the ends.

While camels can swim, this is not to say they are willing. To persuade a camel that swimming is a good and enjoyable thing, you pair it with a camel who already swims. The swimming camel swims, and the non-swimmer follows—at least in theory.

Glaysa swims a steady, languid dog paddle, her hump sticking up like a shark fin. She swims through the dark turqoise of the pool more or less as she would run. Were it not for the quiet gurgle of water Glaysa could be running across the sky.

The sheik's camel operation is not for profit: gambling isn't permitted in the United Arab Emirates, and admission to races is free. Sheik Hamdan finances a camel hospital that has an operating table with a hole in the middle to accommodate humps.

Sheiks such as Mohammed, who have made a pricey pastime of things dromedary, view it as a sort of cultural preservation effort. Wtih the advent of four-wheel drive, camels have lost status. The ship of the desert is no longer the camel. It's a Land Cruiser.

As camels were used less and less for transport, the royal family poured more and more money into racing. The idea was not only to preserve a centuries-old tradition but, says the Ministry of Information and Culture, "to ensure that the younger generation has the opportunity to learn something of the way of life of its ancestors, and to compare it with the easy life today."

This is reiterated by a camel race-track manager, Mohammed Saeed, who owns two Land Cruisers and 25 camels. "For so many centuries," Saeed says, "the camel was very close to our life. We were dependent on him for transport, for food, for recreation. We used to make tents from camel hide. Same as staying in hotels." Saeed adjusts his kaffiyeh headdress, reanchors it and flips it over the side of his head like a girl repinning her bun. "Dubai, the city, is only one part of life. The other part of life is the desert."

Camels can run ten miles per hour. The word camel comes, in part, from jamal which shares the root of the Arabic for beauty. Racing camels have small humps for the same reason athletes don't have spare tires: humps are just fat. Camels store their fat in a hump because it's cooler that way. It's the difference between wearing a sweater and heaping one on your lap.

Camel feet are built for snad: they're big and fat, like jumbo cheese danishes. Camel feet do not go clippety-clop. They go kush-kush-kush. Camels move around a track with a graceful efficiency, more glide than gallop. You can hear them breathe as they go by.

The stands (for viewing the camels) are only six or seven rows deep and maybe 100 feet long, partitioned into thirds. Members of the ruling elite sit in the center, with individual video screens, white leather settees with tables and tissue boxes, and armed guards. The locals sit in orange plastic seats on either side, 20 to a video screen, no tables, no tissues. No one seems to get excited, partly because no one has placed any bets and becasue it's not a big race.

It's a different story in the big Mercedes van that circles the track shadowing the pack. In it are the announcer and two dozen apoplectic camel owners who hang out the windows and bellow instructions to their jockeys. They use walkie-talkies, though it hardly seems necessary. Unlike racehorses, camels don't get individual gates. They're bunched together in a pack. The barrier lifts and the pack surges forward.

The camels go all out, and so is the announcer. He's like an auctioneer. In addition to the camel's names, he recites their own names, and Arab names can have many parts. Fortunately for him camel owners do not exhibit the flair for eccentric names that their coutnerparts in horse racing do.

Driving alongside a race lends a serene quality to the proceedings. The jockeys rise and fall with the camels' long strides, appearing calm and even a little bored. Except for the owners' shouts and the bits of froth that cling to the camels' faces, it would be hard to tell its a scene: three men in djellabas and turbans, a beautiful young woman, a camel resting nearboy.

That's as far as the resemblance goes. Lulu Skidmore is a British expert in camel-embryo transfer. As the moment she's performing an ultrasound exam. When the embryos are ready, she'll transfer them to other camel wombs. The idea is to breed better camels faster. Normally a camel can give birth to two calves over a three-year period. But Skidmore can produce 30 calves a race and not just a ride.

We go down to the final stretch of the five-mile race, then across the finish line. The jockeys swing down from their rolled-blanket saddles into the arms of their trainers, looking for the first time like kids and not tiny swaggering adults.

Winners collect their modest prize money at the racetrack office, a mix of high-tech and no-tech. A video room boasts floor-to-ceiling monitors. A man is rewinding and forwarding the race, making camels cha-cha on the screen. Next door, Saeed sits in a dinged-up chair he's sat in for 16 years, ankle crossed on knee, logging in winners on a battered clipboard. Rubber bands hang off his big toe. This is the way it is in the Persian Gulf: things change, things stay the same.

After each race the winning mounts are tested for drugs by a staff veterinarian. He is a tall, serious man—as serious, that is, as a man diapering a camel can be. He corrects me. It's not a diaper; it's a urine-collection bag, which they don't seem to mind. He says they are good-natured animals, and that it's untrue that they spit at humans.

Later, at the camel reproduction center, it looks a little like a nativity year using embryos from a single female; it's the most advanced breeding equipment money can buy. As with oil, so with camels.

Progress is the unifying theme of the Persian Gulf. The people of this sand-whipped nation have gone from nomads and traders to millionaires in 30 years. If they're going to have camels, they're going to have the most advanced camels in the world.

In the biggest camel race in the U.A.E., first prize is a four-wheel-drive Land Cruiser that can go for 350 miles without food or water.

But it won't be nearly as interesting as a camel. (Courtesy of *Reader's Digest*, January 1997.)

Fascinating Facts

The Spiders That Make a Delicious Dish



It could comfortably span a ten-inch dinner plate. It's hairy. Its fangs are almost an inch long. It's the largest arachnid on earth. And the Piaroa Indians, among other tribes, consider the *Theraphosa leblondi* (above) delicious.

In central Venezuela, on the northern edge of the Amazon rain forest, filmmaker Nick Gordon and scientific adviser Rick West chronicle for the first time the natural history of this goliath. Later they join the Piaroa for a spidery feast.

Before a hunt a shaman in a headdress adorned with a beeswax replica of a tarantula invokes the blessing of spirits.

By twitching a vine in the tarantula's burrow, imitating the movement of an insect, a hunter lures the ground-dwelling giant from its lair. He pins it to the ground with two fingers and, carefully gathering up its eight legs, tucks the spider into a bundle of leaves. The spiders are kept alive until just before cooking. Once the barbed hairs are singed off, the legs and thorax are barbecued. They taste, Gordon and West report, much like shrimp. The Piaroa even use te spiders' fangs—as toothpicks. (Courtesy of the *National Geographic*, March 1993.)

Sorry, Cathy, Life Doesn't Get Any Better Online

"Dilbert" and "Doonesbury" have featured the Internet in their stories for several years. Now Net-fever has swept the rest of the funnies, and even the old-timers are getting into the act. Marmaduke, the keyboard is not a fire hydrant!

Cathy: Luckless heroine finds her true love on the Net. Then they meet in real life and have nothing to talk about.

Ziggy: Luckless hero gets "blackballed" from the Net. Then his computer says, "Byte me." Ah, Ziggy, will you ever win?

Foxtrot: Little Jason subscribes to "CompuNet," finds pix of Miss October. Then he sets user name to "Fabio" and gets 65,000 messages.

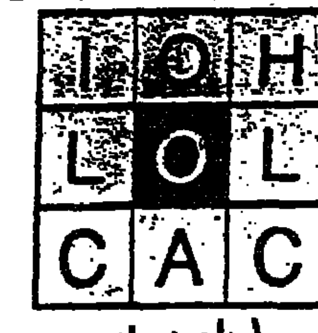
The Family Circus: Little Billy says, "It's the World Wide Web, Mommy, not the Wide World of Web." Say what?

Brain Teaser

GET ON TARGET

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the center letter, and there must be at least one nine-letter word in the list. No plurals or verb form ending in -s; no foreign words; no words with initial capital; no hyphenated words.

TODAY'S TARGET: Good: 14 words; Very good: 21 words; Excellent: 30 words.



(Answers will appear next week.)

Surrogate Mother Refuses to Turn Over Baby

DERBY, England -- A surrogate mother who refused to give up the baby -- or the money she had been paid to give birth -- was arrested on suspicion of deception, police said, in the first case of its kind in Britain.

Greg and Debbie White, from the western town of Bath, filed a complaint against Angela Richardson, 28, after she kept the baby and the £4,000 ($6,600) they paid her.

Richardson, of Derby in central England, gave birth to Isaac, a product of Greg White's sperm and her egg, in October.

Derby police confirmed Sunday that they had arrested her on suspicion of deception in late December.

"She has been released on police bail until March 5, 1997," a statement said. "To date, she has not been charged with any offense."

Commercial surrogacy is banned in Britain, although the surrogate may receive unspecified expenses for carrying a child. The usual figure is around £10,000 ($16,600) for time, lost earnings and costs of pregnancy.

The Whites say that the child was conceived through an artificial insemination kit provided by a charity that matches childless couples and surrogate mothers.

They said in a statement that they were seeking to counter claims from Ms. Richardson that the child was the product of a natural coupling and that she and White subsequently had an affair.

Ms. Richardson was unavailable for comment, and it was not clear from the statement to whom she made the claims.

The founder of the charity used by the Whites, Childlessness Overcome Through Surrogacy, said that the story should not put off others contemplating surrogacy.

"We've had almost 200 babies born through cots and it's only a handful that go wrong," said Kim Cotton, who gained fame in 1985 as Britain's first surrogate mother. "It's got a very high success rate -- better than IVF."

The law on custody in such cases is unsettled in Britain; in one celebrated 1987 case, a surrogate mother was allowed to keep twins born to her; in 1996, a surrogate mother lost her battle to keep the child she bore to the childless couple.

(AP)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1937 — Seventeen communist leaders confess in Moscow that they conspired with Leon Trotsky to undermine Soviet regime of Joseph Stalin.

1945 — Soviet forces reach Oder river in World War II.

1968 — North Korea seizes U.S. Navy ship Pueblo and holds crew as spies.

1973 — U.S. President Richard Nixon announces that accord has been reached in Vietnam war.

1989 — Civilian commandos and army troops backed by tanks battle at infantry base on outskirts of Buenos Aires in Argentina.

1991 — Iraq's Oil Ministry says it will suspend sale of gasoline "for a short period".

1992 — Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savissar resigns, unable to cope with severe food and energy shortages.

1993 — Iraq denies its anti-aircraft batteries fired at U.S. warplanes and again reaffirms a cease-fire it declared.

1994 — Gunmen believed to be leftist guerillas fired automatic weapons at a gathering of political rivals in northwest Colombia, killing at least 35 people.

CANDID CAMERA



Photo: Mojtaba Takin

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1946 - U.N. General Assembly votes to create U.N. Atomic Energy Commission.

1967 - South Vietnam's Premier Nguyen Cao Ky runs into wild anti-war demonstration on visit to New Zealand.

1973 - U.S. negotiator Henry Kissinger says Vietnam peace agreement worked out in Paris also means end to fighting in Laos and Cambodia. Hanoi's De Luc Tho calls agreement "a great victory for the Vietnamese people."

1986 - Guerrillas advance into Ugandan capital of Kampala as army opposition crumbles, pushing military government to edge of collapse.

1989 - Rescuers struggle against heavy smoke and toxic gas to reach at least 100 miners trapped inside collapsed gold mine in southern Peru.

1991 - Lithuania asks Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from buildings seized in that Baltic republic.

1992 - Judge sentences army colonel and lieutenant to 30 years in World Cup lead in the event with 260 points. She also has two second places this season.

When a Man Loves a Woman

My friend John McHugh is always telling me things, things that younger men need wiser, older men to tell them. Things like whom to trust, how to love, how to live a good life.

Not long ago John lost his wife, Janet, to cancer. God knows she was a fighter, but in the end the disease won their eight-year battle.

One day John pulled a folded paper form his wallet. He'd found it, he told me, while going through drawers in his house. It was a love note, in Janet's handwriting. It looked a little like a schoolgirls' daydream note about the boy across the way. All that was missing was a hand-drawn heart and the names John and Janet. Except this note was written by the mother of seven children, a woman who had begun the battle for her life, and very probably was within months of the end. It was also a wonderful prescription for holding a marriage together.

This is how Janet McHugh's note about her husband begins: "Loved. Cared. Worried."

As quick with a joke as John is, apparently he didn't joke with his wife about cancer. He'd come home, and she'd be in one of the moods cancer patients get lost in, and he'd have her in the car faster than you can say DiNardo's, her favorite restaurant. "Get in the car he'd say. "I'm taking you out to dinner."

He worried, and she knew it. You don't hide things from someone who knows better.

"Helped me when I was sick," is next. Maybe Janet wrote her list when the cancer was in one of those horrible and wonderful remission periods, when all is as it was — almost — before the disease, so what harm is there in hoping that it's behind you, maybe for good?

"Forgave me for a lot of things."

"Stood by me."

And then, good advice to those of us who think giving constructive criticism is our religious calling: "Always complimentary."

"Provided everything I ever needed," Janet McHugh next wrote.

Then she'd turned the page over and added "Warmth. Humor. Kindness. Thoughtfulness." And, about the man she had lived with and been in love with majority of her life, she'd written: "Always there when I needed you."

The last thing she wrote sums up all the others. I can picture her adding it thoughtfully to her list.

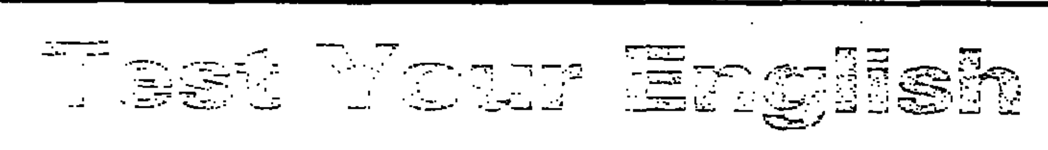
"Good friend."

I stand beside John now, unable even to pretend that I know what it feels like to lose someone so close. I need to hear what he has to say, much more than he needs to talk.

"John," I ask, "how do you stick by someone through 38 years of marriage, let alone the sickness too?

How do I know I'd have what it takes to stand by my wife if she got sick?"

"You will," he says. "If you love her enough, you will."



Complete each of the following newspaper headlines by writing the correct word in the spaces provided.

1- Lucky gardener digs up.... coins

2- Tennis star absent .... U.S. championship

3- Prison officer forgets .... the door-49 escape

4- **Politician's wife accused .... shoplifting**

5- Doctors offer smokers .... good advice

6- Police make arrests during anti-nuclear ....

7- 'Too .... TV violence' — teachers complain

8- Men and women ....60 promised free bus rides

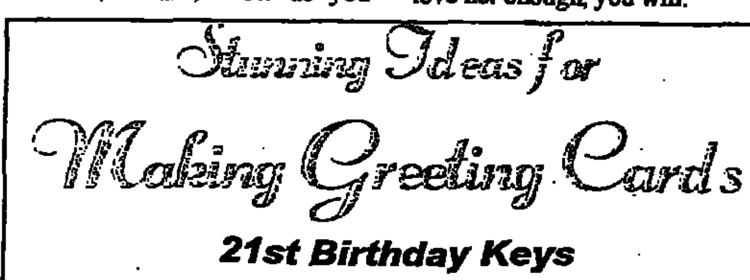
9- Australian miners agree .... back to work

10- French film director still .... after car crash

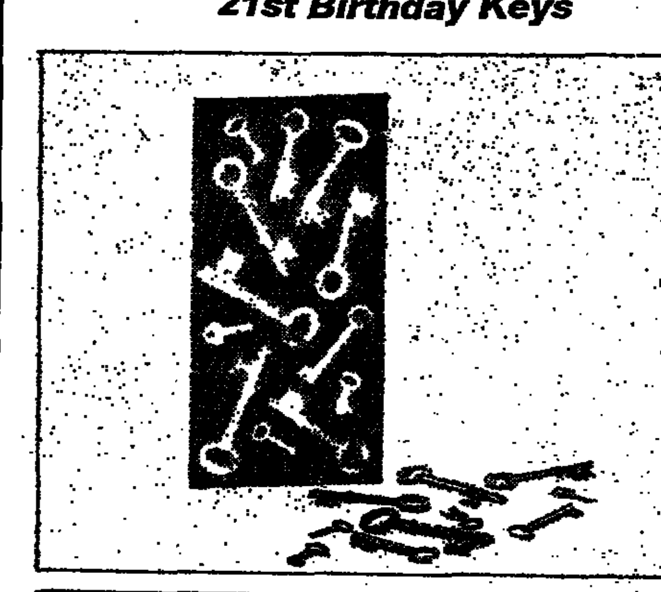
1 rare/scare	4 for/of	7 many/much
2 at/from	5 a/some	8 above/over
3 closing/to close	6 demonstrations/manifestations	9 going/to go
		10 subconscious/unconcious

Answer Key

1 rare 2 from 3 to close 4 of 5 some
6 demonstrations 7 much 8 over 9 to go 10 unconscious

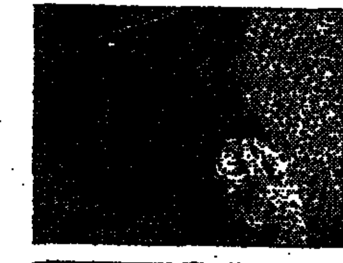


21st Birthday Keys

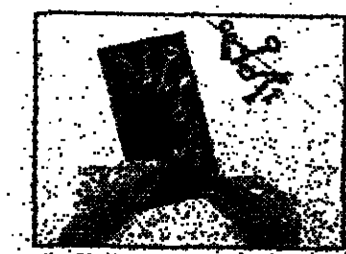




An unusual way to mark a 21st birthday and the traditional receipt of the key of the door. Cut a piece of bright silver card 22 by 22cm (8½ by 8½in) and score fold down the centre. Collect together some interesting shaped keys. Using a spray booth (see page 10), place folded silver card inside and lay keys on card in a pleasing arrangement.



Use spray car paint, holding the can 20-25cm (8-10in) away from card, and spray in a few short bursts to cover the whole card. Allow the first coat to dry for a few minutes and then spray a second coat. To ensure even distribution you should carefully turn the card between coats. You may wish to spray a third coat. Use in a well-ventilated room.



When completely dry, remove keys. You will not be able to get the cellulose paint off the keys ... be sure ... the keys ... no longer need. Other objects, such as ... clock and watch ... used to make theme cards.

GRAFFITI

WHEN MY SHIP CAME IN, I WAS AT THE AIRPORT